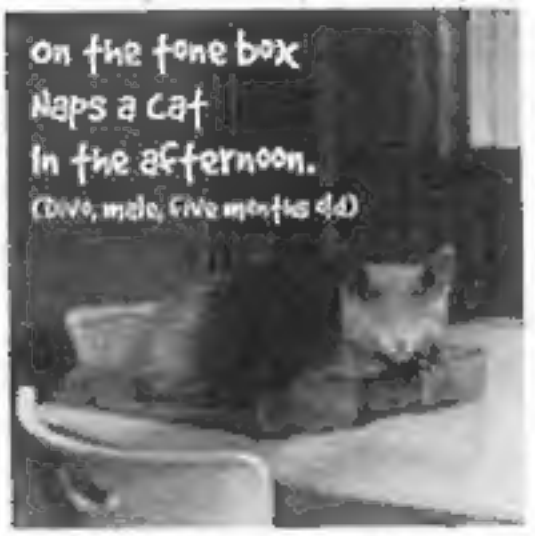

樋口大輔

Stumbling along, I've been diligently cranking out this series for four years. My heart is moved when I see the results of my labors stacked up in the bookstore.

Working solely in the confines of my small world, I started to worry about whether I was really communicating what I was trying to draw. But just then, I met many people involved in turning it into an anime, and even though it was only a vague conviction, I got the feeling for a moment that my message was getting through to others. That feeling made me feel a fountain of renewed energy bursting forth. How simple-minded I am. Just as my spirits are returning to me, the World Cup is about to begin. So let's enjoy soccer!!

- Daisuke Higuchi

Daisuke Higuchi's manga career began in 1992 when the artist was honored with third prize in the 43rd Osamu Tezuka Award. In that same year, Higuchi debuted as creator of a romantic action story titled ***Itaru***. In 1998, ***Weekly Shonen Jump*** began serializing ***Whistle!*** Higuchi's realistic soccer manga became an instant hit with readers and eventually inspired an anime series, debuting on Japanese TV in May of 2002.

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WHISTLE!
VOL. 21: TRY ON MY DREAMS

The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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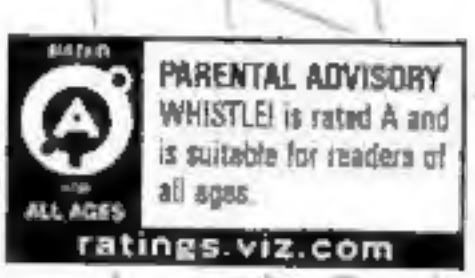
Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, January 2009



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WHISTLE!

Vol. 21

TRY ON MY DREAMS

Story and Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

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CHARACTERS

SHŌEI TAKAYAMA

KYUSHU SELECT TEAM

DEFENDER
SIDE BACK

KOTARŌ ABE

TOHOKU SELECT TEAM

RIGHT WING

MITSUHIRO HINASE

TOHOKU SELECT TEAM

LEFT WING

SHŌ KAZAMATSURI

● JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
FORWARD

TSUBASA SHIINA

AKIRA SAIONJI

TATSUYA MIZUNO

● JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
MIDFIELDER

STORY

TO REALIZE HIS DREAM, SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, A BENCHWARMER AT SOCCER POWERHOUSE MUSASHINOMORI, TRANSFERRED TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SO HE COULD PLAY THE GAME HE LOVES.

SHŌ'S IMPRESSIVE PLAY FOR JOSUI EVENTUALLY LEADS TO A SUBSTITUTE POSITION ON THE WORLD-TRAVELING TOKYO SELECT TEAM.

TOKYO SELECT TEAM HAS NOW JOINED THE NATIONAL TORESEN--A TRAINING EVENT WHERE THE BEST PLAYERS FROM EACH DISTRICT GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN AN INTENSE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT.

IN THE SECOND ROUND, TSUBASA BECAME THE VICTIM OF TOHOKU'S VICIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL TACTICS. OVERLY FOCUSED ON HIS LACK OF SIZE AND STRENGTH, HE STARTS TO CRACK UNDER THE PRESSURE. THAT'S WHEN SHŌ COMES TO THE RESCUE!

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WHISTLE!

Vol. 21
TRY ON MY DREAMS

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STAGE.183 Unspoken Support

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COACH!

SHŌ... GO SUB FOR TAKI.

COACH?

ALL RIGHT!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

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SUBSTITUTION: TOKYO SELECT. NUMBER EIGHTEEN FOR NUMBER NINETEEN.

IN 19 OUT 18

NUMBER NINE-TEEN?

SHŌ. THEN?

NUMBER NINETEEN? BUT HE'S A FORWARD.

BUT THEY'RE PUTTING IN A REALLY SMALL DEFENDER.

THE FIRST TEAM TO SUB OUT IS TOKYO, HUH?

THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE, MAYBE? HMMM. I DON'T GET IT.

INSTEAD OF REPLACING NUMBER FOUR, WHO'S *CLEARLY* GOING DOWNHILL. THEY SENT IN A *FORWARD?*

WHAT?

HEH HEH

HE'S ACTUALLY A FORWARD!

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HE WENT FOR THE GOAL!

WH

AM

SHO

OM

TOKYO'S DEFENDER IS ON THE REBOUND!

PAN

G

DIRECT HIT TO THE BAR!

NO!

HE COULDN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN!

IT'S CLEARED!

PO

WO

SHOOF

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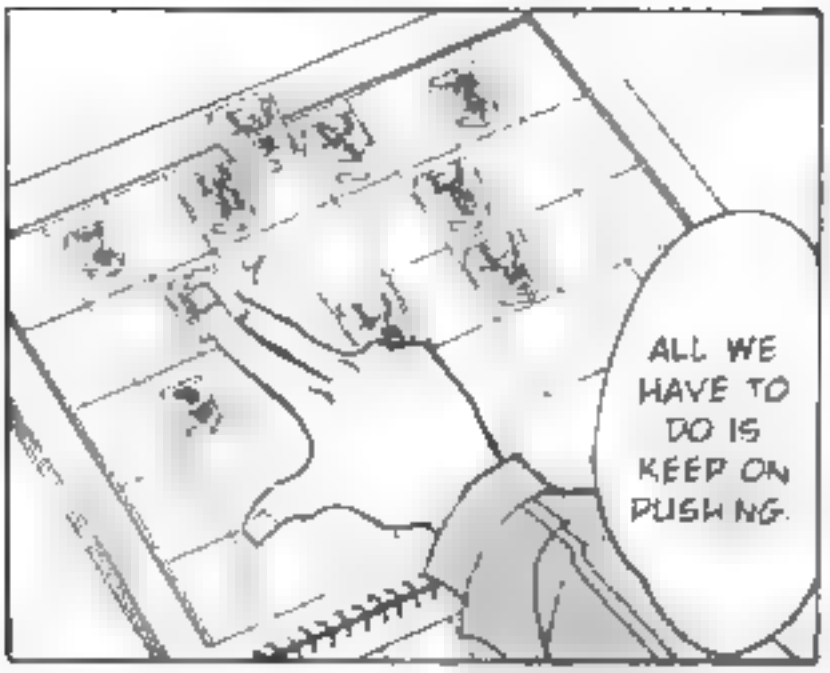

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BUT...

NUMBER FOUR CUTS HIM OFF!

BA

M

BO

OM

NOT SO FAST!

YOINK

!

I WON'T LET YOU THROUGH!

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NUMBER ELEVEN IS *SINGLE-HANDEDLY* BREAKING UP THE TOKYO DEFENSIVE LINE!

WHAT A PLAYER!

WHAT ?!

HE SENT IT BACK ?!

BA M

HE SHAKES THEM OFF AND MAKES THE...

AH!

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FWIP FWIP

CLEARED!

CLEARED WITH A DEFENSIVE HEADER BY NUMBER NINETEEN!

FOOM

TOHOKU

SHŌ ...

SHŌ !!

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TSU-
BASA!

THAT LITTLE GUY'S PRETTY GOOD!

HE READ THE PLAY WITH A CALM MIND.

TOKYO IS STILL UNDER MAJOR PRESSURE!

ANOTHER M.DGET, HUH?

WELL, OKAY, HE JUST GOT LUCKY THIS TIME.

HOKU

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NICE, SHŌ!

GET OFF MY BACK.

TH UP

FW UMP

THAT'S OKAY

HE'S WAY BACK THERE. SHŌ'S TURNING THE FORMATION INTO "FIVE BACK."

COACH?

YET AGAIN, THE OFFENSE WAS STOPPED BY *NUMBER NINETEEN!*

RIGHT NOW, TSUBASA ISN'T PLAYING LIKE THE TSUBASA I KNOW.

UNTIL HE CAN REGAIN HIS COOL.

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SHOVE

NICE COME-BACK!

WHAT, NO RESPONSE?

YOU ARE A *FORWARD*, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, SHŌ?!

THIS IS *MY* TURF! QUIT HANGING AROUND!

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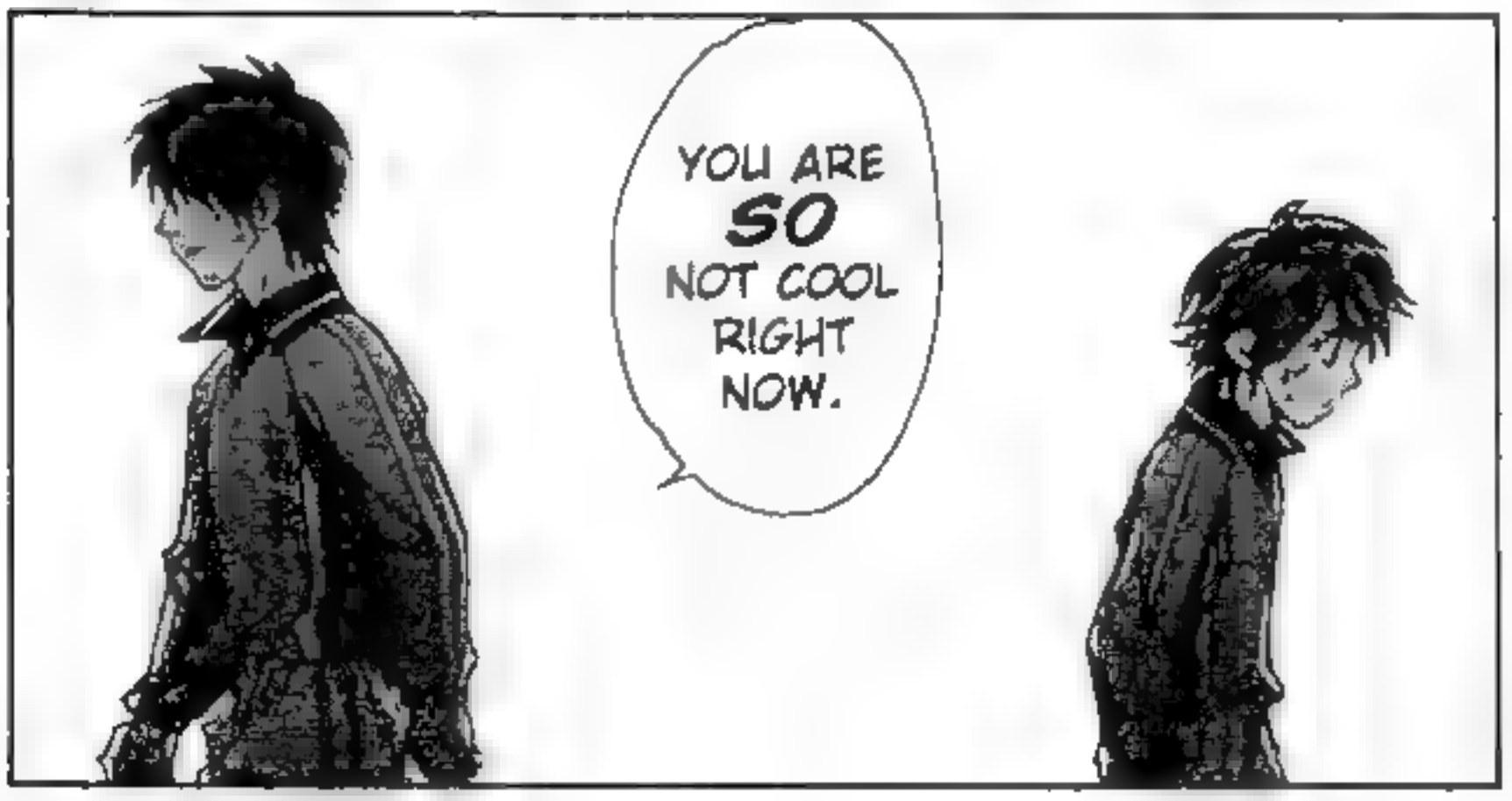

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SARCASTIC AND CONDESCENDING? IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR SIGNATURE STYLE?

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.

...THE REASON HE'S SILENTLY BACKING YOU UP?

YOU REALLY CAN'T SEE. .

IF YOU CAN'T GET BACK ON YOUR FEET, WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?

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STAGE.184

Overlapping Memories

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IT'S THE START OF THE SECOND HALF, AND TOHOKU IS **STILL** IN CONTROL OF THE BALL!

TOHOKU

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ACK!

FWOOSH

BAM

YOU'RE IN MY WAY! BACK OFF, SHŌ!

WHAT-EVER!

GRRRRR

GRRRRR

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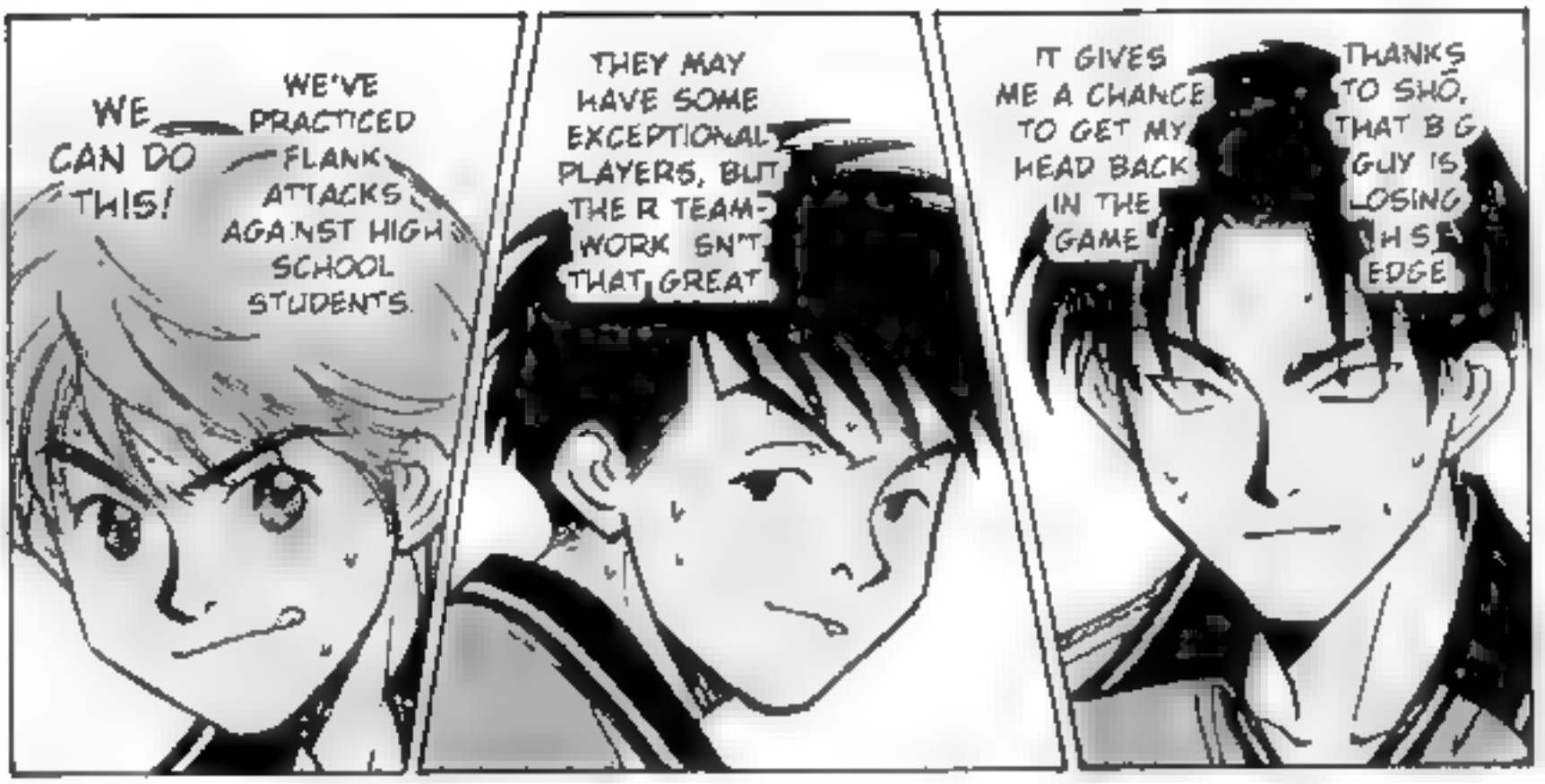
WE CAN DO THIS!
WE'VE PRACTICED FLANK ATTACKS AGAINST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.
THEY MAY HAVE SOME EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, BUT THE R TEAM-WORK SN'T THAT GREAT
IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO GET MY HEAD BACK IN THE GAME
THANKS TO SHŌ, THAT B G GUY IS LOSING H S EDGE

BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE'RE ONE POINT UP AND THEY CAN'T GET OUT OF THE DEFENSIVE ZONE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP HOLDIN' ON TO OUR LEAD.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FIGURED OUT THAT OUR TEAMWORK SN'T SO GOOD.

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IT'S EMBARRASSING!

—STOP IT, SHŌ!

TOHRU

OUR BODIES ARE SO MUCH SMALLER AND WEAKER THAN HIS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO COUNTER HIM."

...ANNOYING TO ME RIGHT NOW?

WHY IS SHŌ SO...!

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DASH DASH

TOHOKU STOPS THE BALL RIGHT AT THE SIDELINE!

GRAAA

YOU!!

AHO

BUT TOKYO INTERFERES, AND THE BALL GOES OVER!

SHOOM

TOHOKU

THUNK

KO-TARŌ!!

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I'LL SEND IT FAR DOWN-FIELD

LET ME DO THE THROW-IN.

IF THEY STEAL THE BALL THIS CLOSE TO THE GOAL, THEY'LL PROBABLY SCORE. SO, TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE...

TSU-BASA?

"SU-BASA?

I SEE...

I'M WILLING TO MAKE THAT GAMBLE.

...

WSP

WSP

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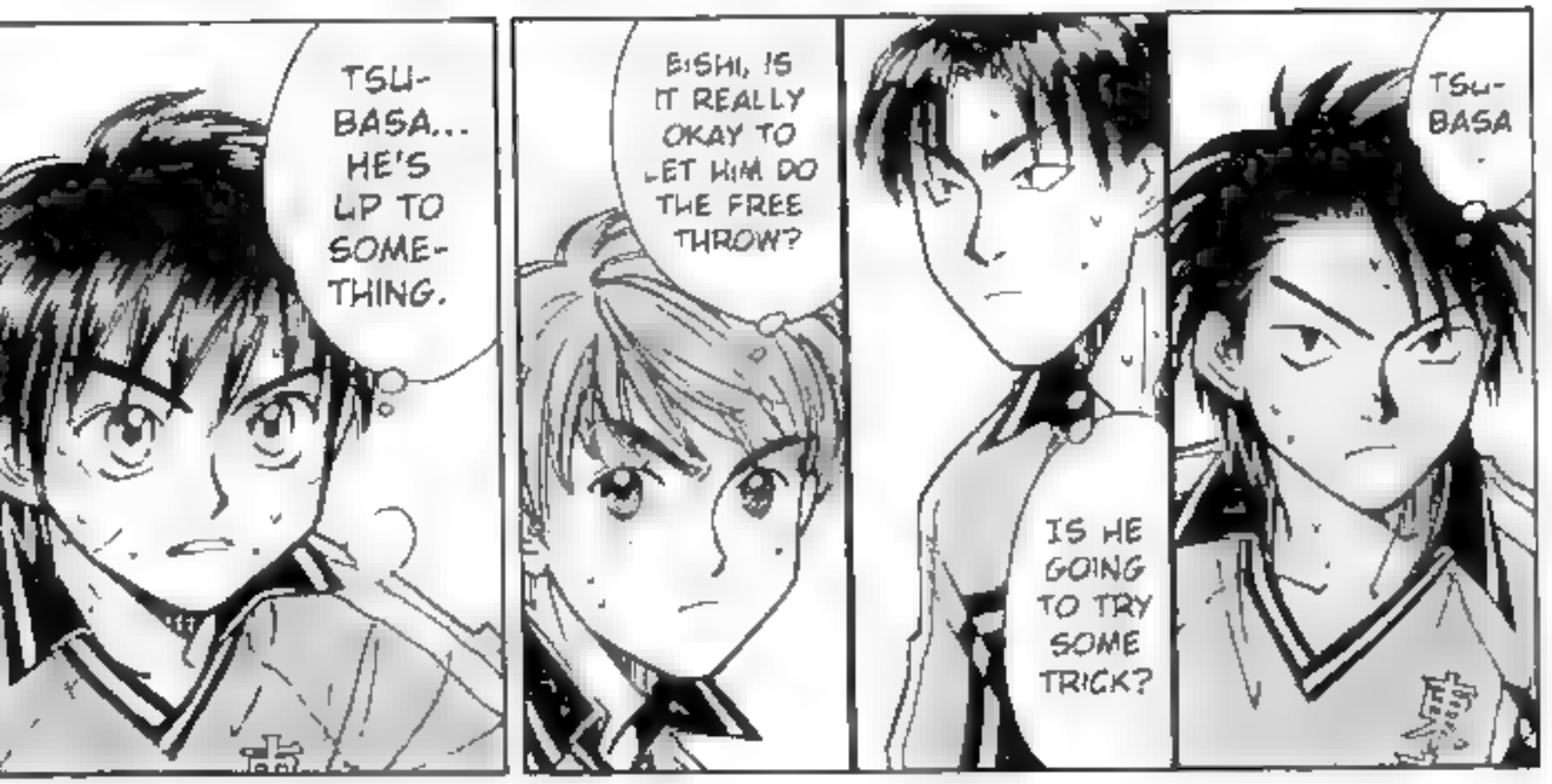

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FROM THIS LOCATION, I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE HE'LL AIM THIS WAY!

TOHOKU

WHOOSH

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THE FORWARD IS OPEN!

HE SENT IT STRAIGHT TO THE FRONT-LINE!

HE CLEARED IT!

BA

AH

THE GOAL-KEEPER JUMPED OUT OF THE BOX!

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THE KEEPER DID A GOOD JOB JUMPING OUT IN THE END.

SHOOT, MY PLAN ONLY GOT HALFWAY THROUGH.

TOHOKU

HOW DARING!

BUT ...

WOW! HE INTENTIONALLY AIMED THE BALL NEAR THE GOAL, AT NUMBER ELEVEN, BECAUSE I WAS MARKING HIM. TSUBASA KNEW AHEAD OF TIME HOW I WOULD REACT, SO HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE INTERCEPT

EXHILARATING MOMENTS LIKE THIS ARE WHY I CAN'T QUIT...

...PLAYING SOCCER!

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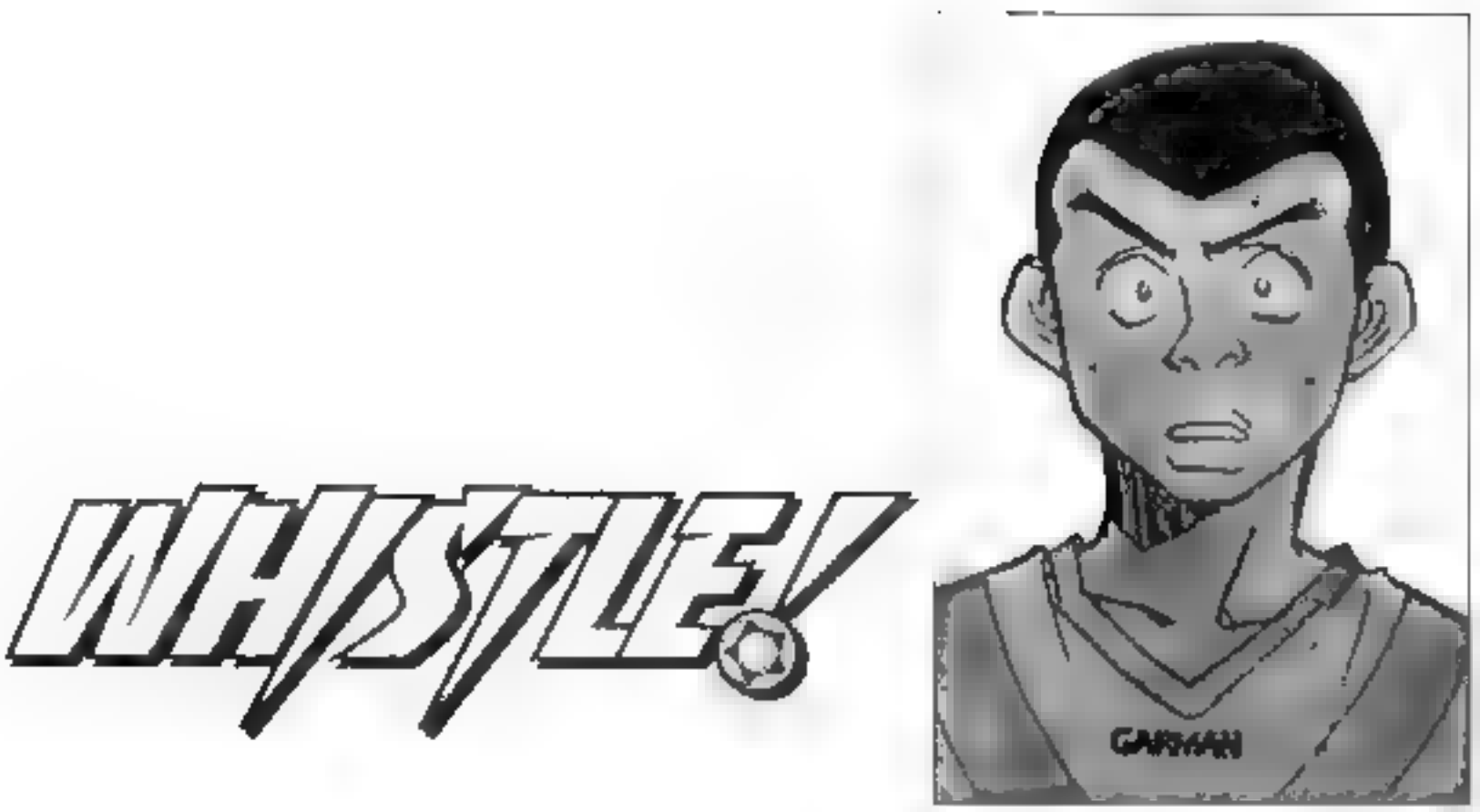

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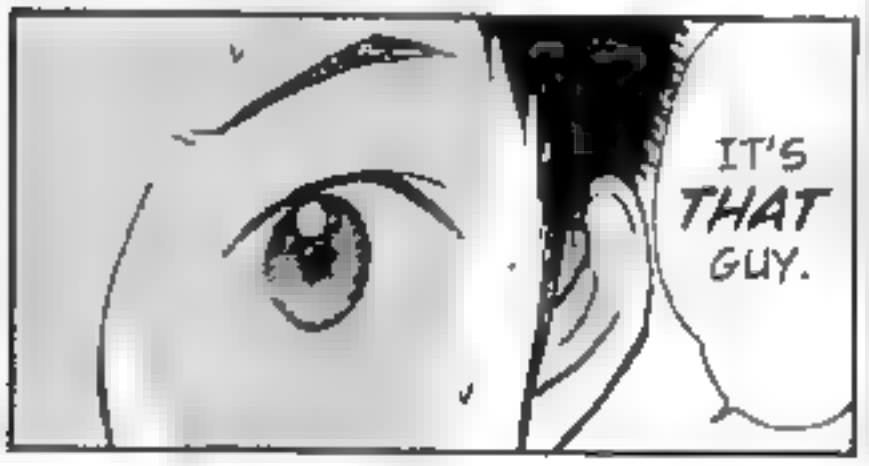

STAGE.185 From Gold General to Rook

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DON'T LET TOHOKU PUSH YOU AROUND ANYMORE!

OKAY, GUYS?

TSU-BASA!

SAME TO YOU!

SOME-HOW, TOKYO'S MOOD HAS LIFTED.

STAGE.185

From Gold General to Rook

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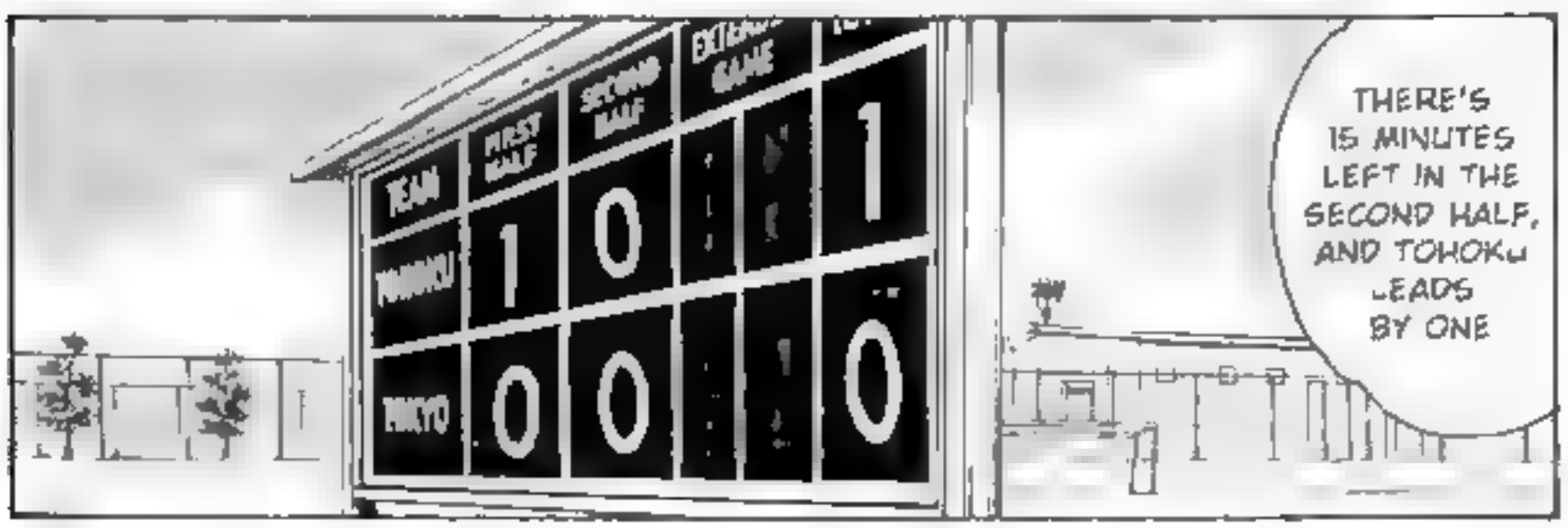

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SH

HOO

M

HUH?

KO-TARŌ!

NUMBER ELEVEN ISN'T GETTING UP. IS HE INJURED?

TWEEEEEE

FOUL!

TOHOKU GETS THE PENALTY KICK!

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I WANNA GO HOME...

BOO HOO

YŪDAI!

I DON'T LIKE DOING STUFF LIKE THIS ANYMORE.

I'M SORRY, YŪDAI.

QUIT BLUBBERIN', BIG FELLA! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

WHENEVER THINGS GO A LITTLE BIT WRONG, IT'S THAT SAME OLD LINE.

WHAT THE HECK ARE YA TALKIN' ABOUT?!

YOU'RE NOT A WEAKLING, LIKE YOU WERE IN THE PAST.

I KNOW HOW GREAT YOU ARE.

LISTEN, KOTARŌ.

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"IT MADE YOU FEEL SO GOOD, AND THAT'S WHY YOU WORKED SO HARD, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU MADE IT THIS FAR, DON'CHA KNOW?"

"NO, I DIDN'T FORGET."

"YOU **USED** TO BE BULLIED, BUT WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING SOCCER, EVERYONE STARTED SAYING THINGS LIKE, **'AWESOME'** AND, **'SO COOL.'** EVEN THE BULLIES BECAME YOUR FRIENDS. DID YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT?"

"YEAH."

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MASAKI, MARK NUMBER SEVEN. KIDA, MARK NUMBER NINE.

YEAH

ROKU-SUKE, YOU MARK NUMBER ELEVEN.

THEY'RE GOING TO TRY SOME-THING

I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU GUYS.

AS FOR ME, I'LL PLAY LIBERO.

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THE SECOND HALF IS ALMOST OVER.

LOOK OUT FOR A HEAD SHOT.

WILL TOHOKU PULL OFF ANOTHER GOAL?

OR ...?

WHERE IS HE?

I DON'T SEE NUMBER FOUR.

WOW!

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BOOM

THREE OF TOHOKU'S MEN ARE SPRINTING DOWNFIELD, PULLING TOKYO'S DEFENDERS ALONG BEHIND THEM!

THE BALL IS IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE DEFENSIVE WALL AND THE MOVING PLAYERS!

SHOOT

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SHO

OM

TOHOKU

LET'S GO!

THEY BIT THE BAIT! THE *TRIPLE ROCKET!*

JET STREAM ATTACK ?!

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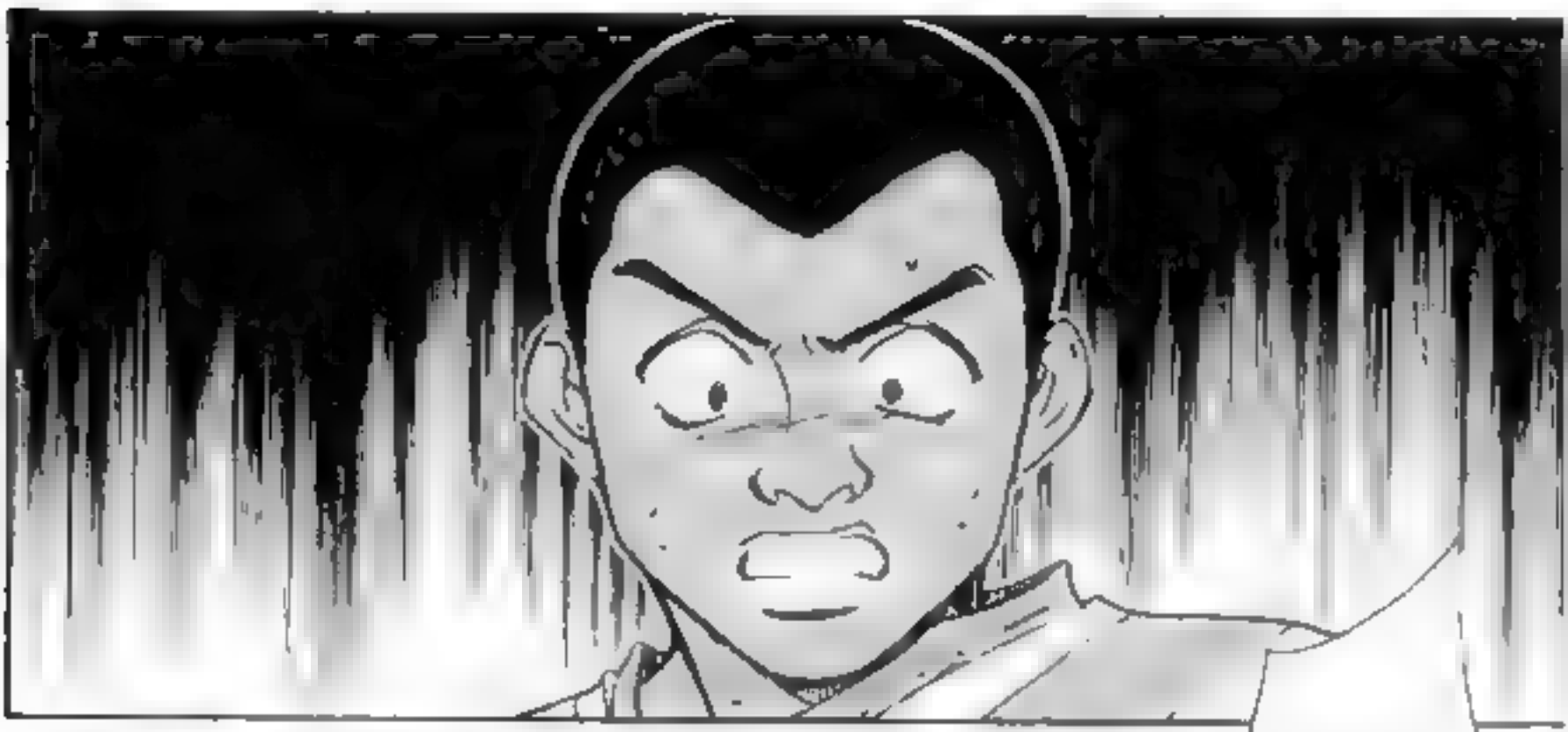

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SHOOT

TSU-BASA!

NO WAY !!!

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COUNTER-ATTACK! NUMBER FOUR IS RUNNING DOWN-FIELD!

WILL HE PASS TO NUMBER TWENTY?

...HE'S LIBERO-- THE ROOK!

HE'S NOT JUST A DEFENSIVE GOLD GENERAL.

THAT GUY...

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STAGE.186 The Final Weapon's Willpower

TWEEE

DEAD-LOCK...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THE FIRST TEAM TO MAKE A GOAL WINS!

JUST GET THROUGH THE EXTENDED GAME AND MAKE IT TO THE SHOOTOUT. THEN WE'LL WIN.

EEEK!

DON'T CRY!

WE HAVEN'T LOST YET!

I'M SORRY, YŪDAI. SNIFF!

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...WE SPENT ALL WINTER PRACTICING PENALTY KICKS.

IN OUR NECK OF THE WOODS, WE CAN'T USE THE FIELD IN THE WINTERTIME BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY SNOW. SO OUR TEAMWORK ISN'T QUITE UP TO SPEED YET, BUT...

TOHOKU

THAT'S RIGHT IT'S EXACTLY WHAT OUR TACTICIAN SAYS

BRING THE GAME AROUND TO YOUR STRONGEST PLAY, AND YOU'LL WIN.

HMMM.

OUR OPPONENT IS TIRED, TOO. HOW ABOUT TRADING OUT THE FORWARD, GOING FOR AN AGGRESSIVE OFFENSE AND SETTLING THE GAME QUICKLY?

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JUST SAY THAT?!

I'M THE SECRET WEAPON OF TOKYO SELECT!

WE SAVE THE BIG GUNS FOR LAST GOT IT?

IRON-KICK TEPPEI, THE SPEEDING-BI-

AH!

THE VICTORY GOAL IS AT STAKE. NO ONE WANTS A CRUMMY PLAYER LIKE ME!

SHŌ!

LET'S ASK COACH

TEP-PEI!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! AREN'T YOU THE ENEMY?!

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AREN'T YOU THE SECRET FINAL WEAPON OF TOKYO SELECT?
BUT THEY'RE NOT EVEN BRINGING YOU OUT FOR THE EXTENDED GAME?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP ME WAITING, "BULLET WING"?

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WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

SHŌ, YOU JERK!

TEPPEI

ERK

PAT PAT

THE FACT IS, YOU KNOW YOU COULD NEVER SURPASS ME. AM I RIGHT?

DON'T..

WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND ADMIT IT.

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I'VE BEEN *HOLDING BACK* TO GIVE EVERYONE ELSE A CHANCE TO PLAY, BUT *I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!*

...NOT EVEN A *FART* TO ME!

WHEN DID I *EVER* SAY *ANYTHING LIKE THAT?!* YOU ARE...

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, YOU CRAZY IDIOT?!

SO ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM PLAY, COACH?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS.

HUH?

WELL.

PAT

JUST DON'T COME *CRYING TO ME* ABOUT IT AFTER-WARDS, MITSUHIRO!

YEAH, I'M IN!

I'M TAKING THE FIELD BY STORM!

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COACH, TEPPEI IS ..

YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT, TEPPEI?

TEP-PEI.

CO... COACH ?!

HE GASP

THAT'S MY PLAN!

IF I DON'T STEP UP NOW, I CAN'T CALL MYSELF A MAN!

YEAH!

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THIS IS YOURS.

ER...I HAVEN'T GOT A UNIFORM ...

COACH NAKAMURA!

TEPPEI, CHANGE INTO YOUR UNIFORM.

I'M CHANGING THE LINE-UP FOR THE EXTENDED GAME. TEPPEI S REPLACING TATSUYA.

TOHOKU

SHOOM

IT'S MY UNIFORM!

A UNIFORM...

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KANSAI'S GAME S ALREADY OVER? DID THEY W.N?

SH - GEKI

KANSAI

WE CAN'T LOSE NOW!

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TWEEE

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I MAY NEVER GET A CHANCE TO PLAY A GAME AGAIN!

OOPS.

BOING

YIKES!

BIP

IF I DON'T ...

EVER SINCE THE FIRST HALF OF THE EXTENDED GAME BEGAN, THE DEFENSE AND OFFENSE HAVE BEEN SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH!

I'VE GOTTA USE THIS CHANCE!

DARN IT!!!

BOOM

WHICH TEAM WILL MAKE THE GOAL FIRST?!

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TEPPEI!

RUN FOR IT!

ZOOM

BOOM

KAPWING

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TEP-PEI!

HE'S GOTTEN FASTER SINCE I SAW HIM LAST.

HE'S FAST!

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ZOOM ZOOM

BOAP

NUMBER NINE AND NUMBER TWENTY-ONE ARE GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD!

THE BALL IS IN FRONT OF THE PENALTY AREA!

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YOU!

GRAHH!

...JUST SO I COULD BEAT MITSU!

I RAN AND TRAINED MY LEGS AND HIPS...

IT'S NOT LIKE I JUST SAT AROUND.

...LESS OF A MAN!

...MAKES ME...

BEING DEFEATED ALL THE TIME...

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I'M GONNA WIN...

BHOKU

TEPPEI, NO!!!

TH

UNK

OOF

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STAGE.187

Not Gonna Quit Soccer

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OH NO...

I TRIPPED!

SO THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF MAN I AM, AFTER ALL.

HOW TOTALLY UNCOOL...

I BLEW IT!

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WHOO
MY SOCCER EXPERIENCE IS LACKING.
I'M NOT SMART AND HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT STRATEGY.
BUT THEY CAN'T SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS WHILE THEY'RE PLAYING U!
MY FAST LEGS DO NOTHING FOR ME IN A SMALL SPACE LIKE THIS!
RRR
RRR
AGGH.
THEY WANT TO REMAIN ON THE SELECT TEAM, SO THEY ALL WANT TO IMPRESS THE COACHES
WASN'T IT A FLUKE FOR ME TO EVEN MAKE THE SELECT TEAM IN THE FIRST PLACE?
RUNNING IS JUST ABOUT ALL I CAN DO.

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WHOO

MY SOCCER EXPERIENCE IS LACKING.

RUNNING IS JUST ABOUT ALL I CAN DO.

I'M NOT SMART AND HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT STRATEGY.

BUT THEY CAN'T SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS WHILE THEY'RE BEATING M

WASN'T IT A FLUKE FOR ME TO EVEN MAKE THE SELECT TEAM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BUT...

...THAT'S MY ONLY GOOD QUALITY!

TEPPEI !!!

DON'T GIVE UP!

YOU'RE OUR FINAL WEAPON, AREN'T YOU?!

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THE FACT IS. YOU KNOW YOU COULD NEVER SURPASS ME AM I RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND ADMIT IT

NO...

WHO

...WAY!

CRUMMY

...

...POO-BRAIN...

...

POO-FUS!

DASH

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AH!

FWOO

OM

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE, AFTER TRIPPING, IS NOW DIVING FOR THE BALL!

I WON, BULLET WING!

THUD

OWWW

BLOOP

ARK

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WHAT ?!

WHOMP

GARGH!

GERMAN TOHOKU

...WILL...

FWUP

I...

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...
NOT LOSE...

FOR

...TO YOU!

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NICE SETUP!

...IT'S A DARN GOOD PERFOR-MANCE, TEPPEI!

FOR SOME-ONE LIKE YOU...

...TWO DEFENDERS ARE MARKING NUMBER TWENTY!

BUT ...

KA-ZUMA!

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POW

HE FEINTED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT, BUT INSTEAD HE TRAPPED THE BALL RIGHT BEHIND THE DEFENDER!

BAP

FOU

HE'S OPEN!

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I GUESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT

THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD

NICE ASSIST!

WHACK

TEP-PEI!

2-1, AND TOKYO SCORES THE *GAME-WINNER!*

WE DID IT!

YOU GUYS PLAYED WELL, ALL OF YOU.

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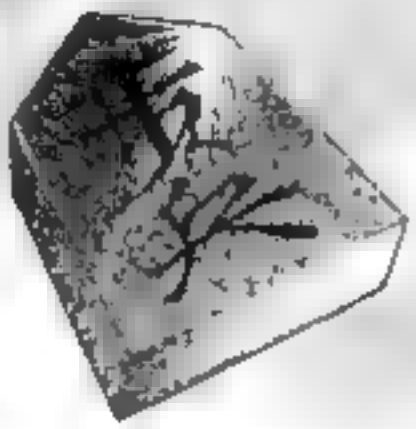
WHAP

THE PAWN IS THE WEAKEST PIECE, BUT NOT HAVING IT IN PLAY COULD COST THE WHOLE GAME.

WHEN IT MAKES IT OVER TO THE ENEMY CAMP...

...IT *IS* THE PIECE THAT GETS PROMOTED THE HIGHEST, AFTER ALL.



AS PER OUR WAGER, YOU MUST NOW JOIN THE SHOGI CLUB.

YOU HAVE LOST, YŪDAI.

OH NO!

A *PAWN* BEAT US IN THE END, AFTER ALL.

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THAT'S NOT OKAY!

YOU PROMISED THAT, IF YOU LOST, YOU WOULD DEVOTE YOURSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO SHOJI.

YOU'RE STILL HERE?

SOCCER!

SHOGI!

YŪDAI IS GOING TO PLAY SOCCER WITH ME FOREVER!

I GUESS THAT MAKES US EVEN.

I LOST, HUH?

MITSU.

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TEPPEI...

IN THAT SENSE, I LOST.

BUT YOU STILL OUT-PLAYED ME.

YOU WERE WAY MORE EXHAUSTED THAN I WAS

MITSU, YOU PLAYED THE FULL GAME, AND I ONLY DID TEN MINUTES.

...IT'S NOT LIKE I TOTALLY WON.

YEAH, I WON, BUT ...

IS THAT REALLY OKAY WITH YOU?

I HAD TO TRANSFER SCHOOLS ALL THE TIME. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, I ONLY HAD SOCCER.

SO WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING SOCCER, IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY

HMPH

IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW, BUT I ***WILL*** SURPASS YOU SOMEDAY.

IT'S FINE!

'CAUSE I'M NOT GONNA QUIT SOCCER ANY TIME SOON.

I'M HAPPY YOU'VE BEEN STICKING WITH SOCCER.

OKAY!

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TA-TSUYA ..

SO IF WE BOTH WIN THE NEXT GAME, THAT MEANS WE'LL PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE FINAL ROUND

DID KANSAI WIN?

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THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT ONE MORE TO GO.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE FINAL.

WE'LL BEAT KYUSHU SELECT NEXT!

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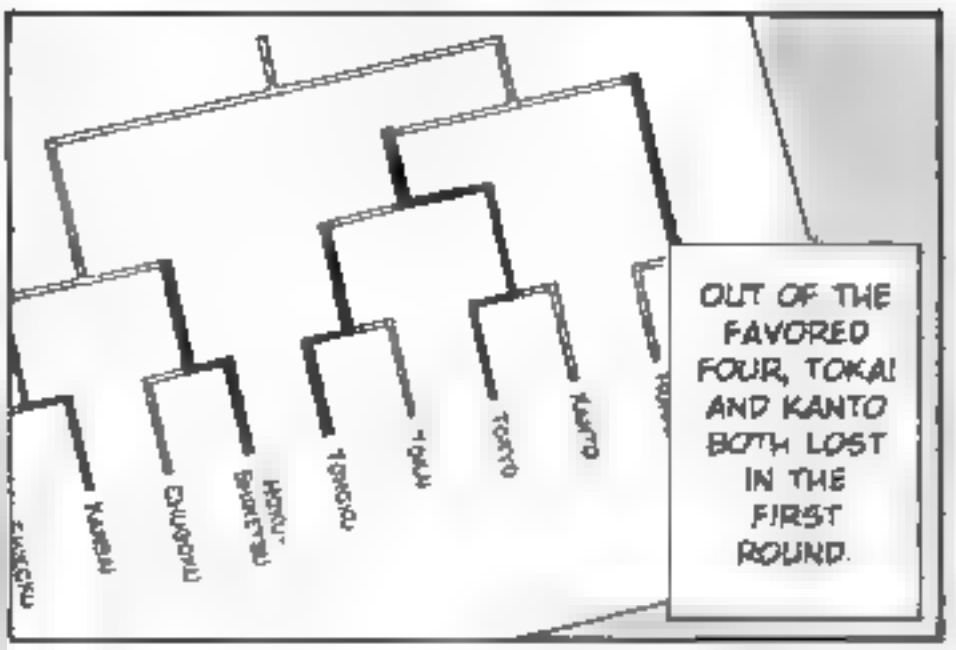
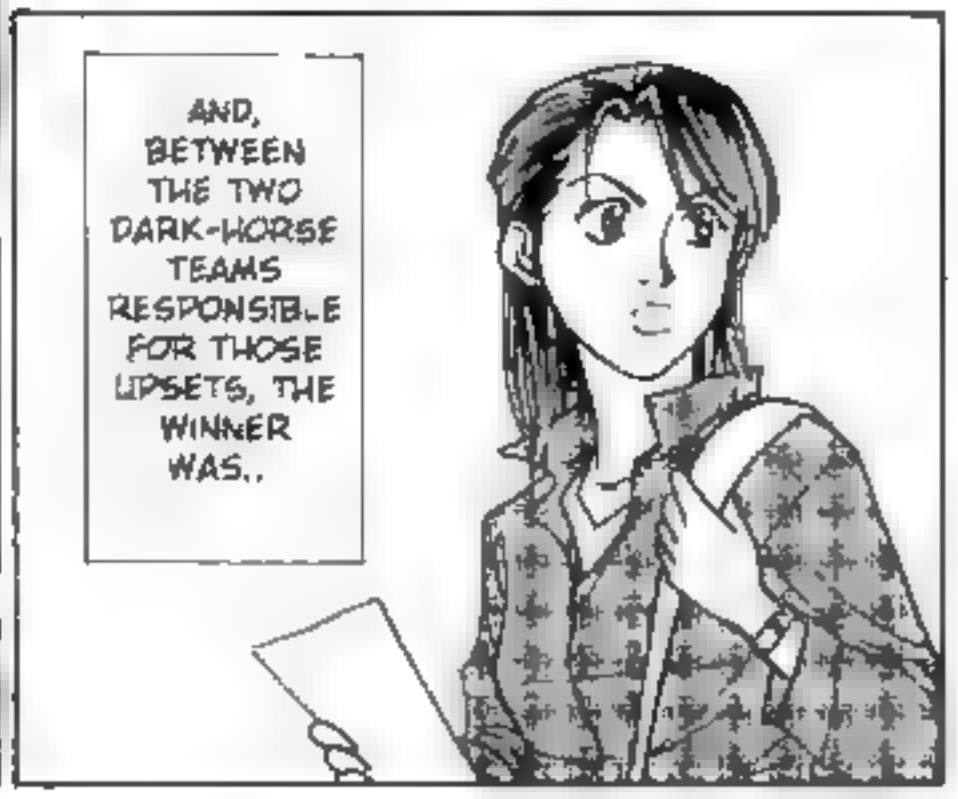
STAGE.188 The Night Before the Play-off





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HE MUST BE REALLY GOOD. GOOD ENOUGH TO BRAG THAT HE'D DEFEAT BATIS AND RAUL SOMEDAY.

THAT'S SHŌEI TAKAYAMA.

THEY'RE ALL REALLY STINKIN' BIG.

KYU-SHU, WOW.

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

HE WATCHES TOO MUCH TV!

MORON!

BONK!

...DO A NINJA POSE!

WHAT A GOOF-BALL!

DOING

THAT GUY IS AN IDIOT.

AGH! AGH!

KAZU.

SOMEHOW, STANDING HERE LIKE THIS TOTALLY MAKES ME WANT TO...

HUH?

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Until the 2002 World Cup...

94 days left!

STAGE.188 The Night Before the Play-off

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WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT BOTH TOKAI AND KANTO WOULD BE ELIMINATED AFTER THE FIRST ROUND?!

SO THAT MEANS TOMORROW'S FINAL WILL BE A MATCH BETWEEN KYUSHU AND KANSAI.

PUT PUT

PUT PUT PUT

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T SEE KYUSHU SELECT AROUND ANY-WHERE.

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ZOOP

九州

ZOOP

ZOOP

LAST LEG-- 100-METER DASH!

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THUDA THUDA THUDA

HYAAAA!

IT'S NO BIGGIE. I HAVE 'EM DO THIS ALL THE TIME.

AFTER A GAME, SHOULDN'T THEY ONLY DO A *LIGHT* COOL-DOWN?

WE JUST RAN AROUND THE MOUNTAIN NEARBY

HAVING THEM RUN 15 KILO-METERS.

WHAT AM I DOING?

ZOOP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, COACH OZAKI?

EVERY DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR. SKIPPING IT ONE DAY WOULD ONLY THROW THEM OFF.

ALL THE TIME?!

IS HE FOR REAL?

YIKES

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ARRRGH!

CALL ME MONSTER MAN!

BWA HAHA

SHEESH. YOU'VE GOT SOME RIDICULOUS STAMINA.

AH!

BWOOP

BWOOP

ANYWAY, WHERE IS TOKYO SELECT?

HUH?

KAZU, LOOK WHAT TOKYO IS DOING! IT'S LIKE, TOTALLY INCREDIBLE! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

FIRST PLACE!

YEAH!

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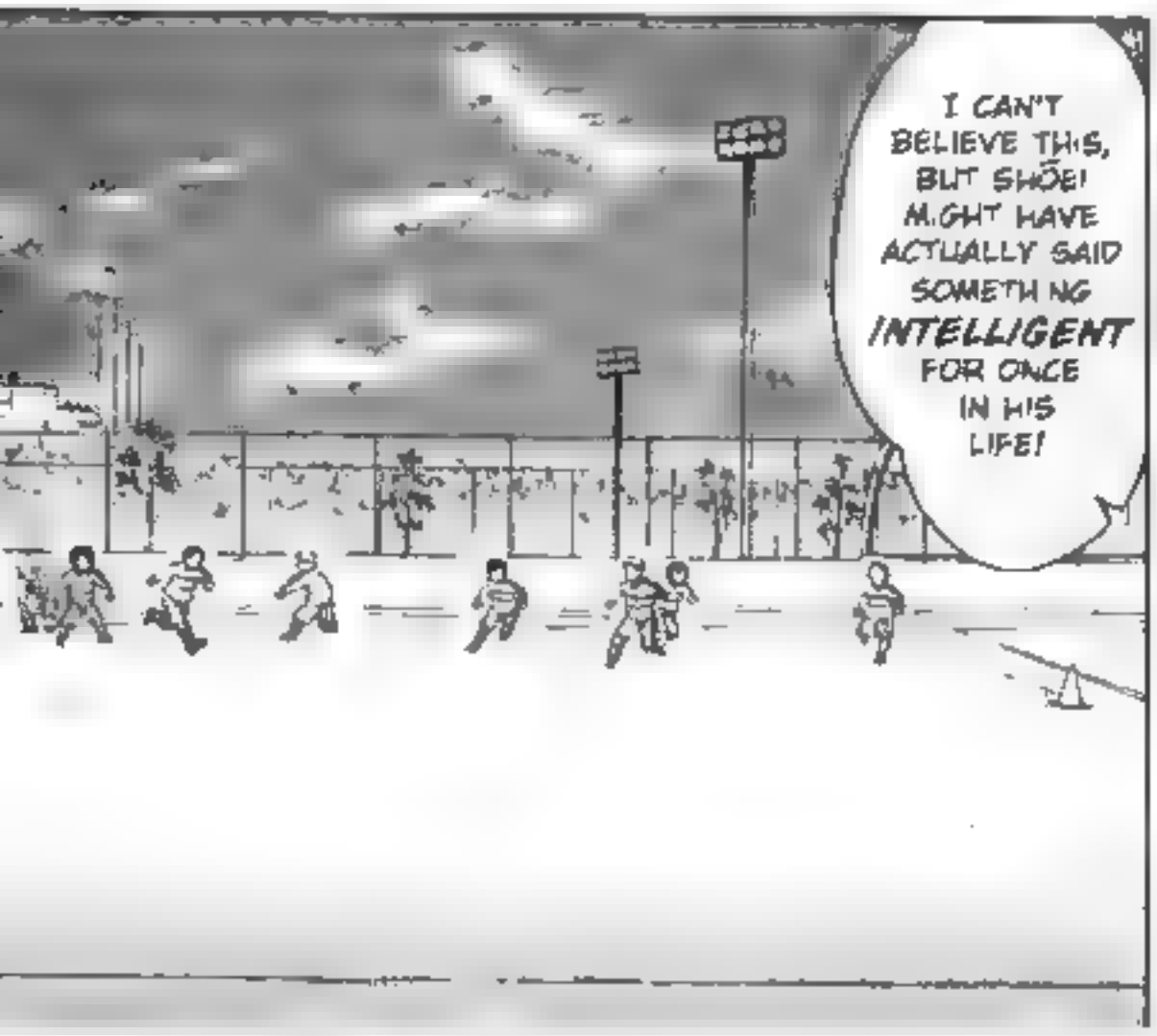

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WITH THAT LONG HEADBAND, THEY NEED TO USE EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIMING TO SLIP THROUGH THE OPPONENT'S DEFENSE, USING DRIBBLE AND PASS.

THE HEADBAND ALSO TEACHES THEM HOW TO TIGHTEN THEIR TURNS.

IT'S A GAME OF TAG TO PRACTICE LINE DEFENSE

SHE'S HAVING THEM DO SOMETHING UNUSUAL.

..I WONDER HOW TOKYO WILL FIGHT.

THE KYUSHU PLAYERS ARE BIG, FAST AND SKILLED. THEY HAVE EXCEPTIONAL STAMINA AND HAVE NO OBVIOUS BLIND SPOTS. WITH THAT KIND OF TEAM AS THEIR OPPONENT

THAT'S THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE SHE'S GOING FOR.

PLAYING TAG NURTURES A PLAYER'S ABILITY TO MAKE [redacted] ON HIS FEET AND COVER HIS OPPONENTS INTUITIVELY

SO I'VE HEARD.

THIS GAME OF TAG IS THE KEY.

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STILL, EVEN IF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM MASTERED THE TECHNIQUE...

...KYUSHU WOULD STILL HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE.

EACH PLAYER BREAKS THROUGH BY MAKING HIS OWN DECISION, BASED ON WHATEVER OPPONENT HE'S FACING AT THE TIME...

...WHICH MEANS THE PLAYERS CAN BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR STYLE OF SOCCER. THAT'S THE GOAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE.

YOU KNOW, KYUSHU SELECT PLAYS A REALLY CHEAP GAME OF SOCCER.

FYI, I SECRETLY SNUCK OUT AND WATCHED THEM WHILE YOU GUYS WERE PLAYING AGAINST TOHOKU.

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THEY'RE ALL BIG, THEY ALL HAVE GREAT STAMINA, AND IN ADDITION, THEY'RE FAST...

...AND GOOD AT HANDLING BALL...

...AND YET..

CHEAP?

...THEY PLAY WITH A SUPER-TIGHT DEFENSE. ONE-ON-ONE, MAN-TO-MAN!

WHAAAT?

WHAT THE...

HECK

SEE, THEY'RE TOTALLY CHEAP!

THEY'LL BE HARD TO BEAT, THEN.

I CAN'T *STAND* THAT WAY OF PLAYING

THEY'RE STRANGELY CONSER-VATIVE.

MAN-TO-MAN IS A USUALLY A TACTIC USED BY AN INFERIOR TEAM PLAYING AGAINST A SUPERIOR TEAM, ISN'T IT?

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SHŌ ISN'T HERE.

HUH? COME TO THINK OF IT...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE DINNER.

I'LL LOOK AROUND

THEY'RE NOT AN OPPONENT WE CAN DEFEAT IF WE JUST COME AT THEM HEAD-ON.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN UNLESS WE WORK WELL AS A TEAM-- BETTER THAN WE EVER HAVE BEFORE.

CLICK

THAT GUY IS INTENSE!

INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, YOU SHOULD LOOK AFTER YOURSELF.

I MEAN, IF EVERY-ONE JUST PASSES THE BALL, WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THE GOAL?

YOU SEEM ABSENT-MINDED, TATSUYA SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

REALLY?

NO.

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FLUTTER

FWIP

WHOA, DOING SOME TOP-SECRET SPEC AL TRAIN NG? THAT'S *AWE-SOME!*

ZIP

SWISH

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SHŌEI?

WHAT'S UP WITH THE KETTLE?

KA-

CHUNK

COLA ... COLA ...

!

CLACK

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OH, HEY!

IT'S TATSU-BOY!

THEY'RE OUT OF COLA!

THAT'S LAME.

WHAT THE...

SHI-GEKI ...

KA-CHUNK

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL GET A VITA-WATER.

...

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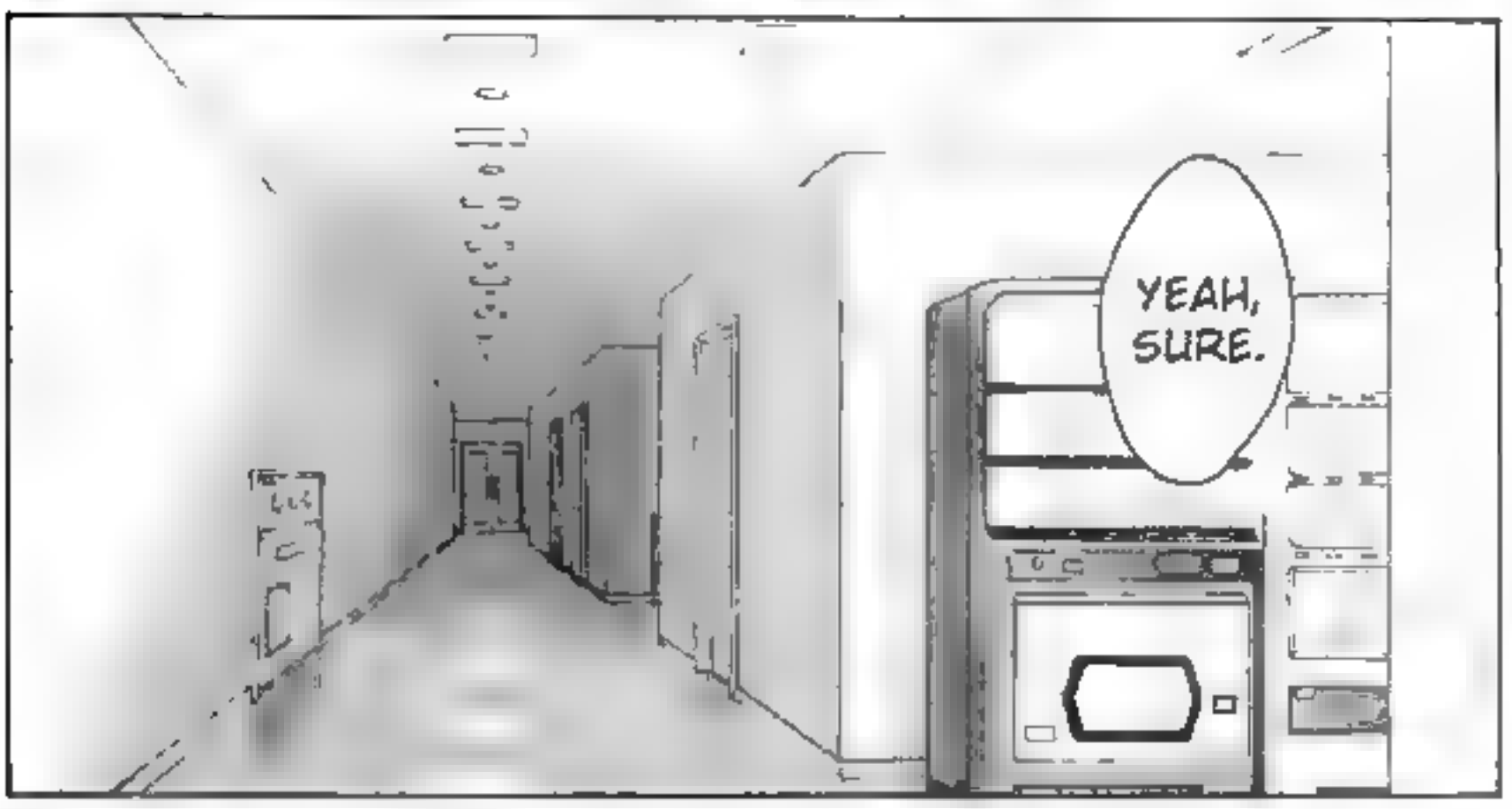

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STAGE.189 He Scares Me

2002 FIFA
World Cup
Korea
Japan
87 more days to go.

THE NUMBER OF DAYS SHOWN SINCE PAGE 85 IS BASED ON THE ORIGINAL PUBLICATION OF THE SERIES IN *SHONEN JUMP*.

THE GAME IS ABOUT TO START I CAN'T WAIT!!

DO YOUR BEST!

WORLD CUP PLAYERS, LET'S SEE YOUR FIRE!

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IT DOESN'T EVEN APPROACH THE REAL THING, BUT THEN AGAIN, IT IS BEING MADE BY ME, PROFESSOR RAMEN.

FOR INSTANT NOODLES, THIS RAMEN IS SOMETHING ELSE.

GLUG GLUG GLUG

SO THE KETTLE WAS FOR EATING RAMEN.

THANKS.

HERE.

IT'S AN EXERCISE FOR GETTING BEHIND THE DEFENSE

YOU REALLY, TRULY ENJOY TRAINING, DON'T YOU? THAT'S SO CRAZY!

I KNOW I'M KINDA DUMB, BUT I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU WERE PRACTICING.

I WAS LIKE, "OH MY GOSH, A GHOST!" I MEAN, IT SERIOUSLY FREAKED ME OUT

WHEN I WENT TO THE CAFETERIA TO GET SOME HOT WATER, I SAW A WHITE THING FLUTTERING OUTSIDE.

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PLUS, WE HAVE A *TON* OF GREAT FORWARDS.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL EVEN PUT ME IN THIS GAME.

SLURP

ACK.

OOPS! MY BIG MOUTH...

OH HO! THEN I'D BETTER WATCH OUT!

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PLAYERS SHOW UP...

I'LL BLOCK THEM WITH MY ULTRA-DEFENSIVE POWER, WHICH I FORGED IN THE KILN OF COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL!

...

GAL

GRRR.

SHOOT. MY GLASSES GOT ALL FOGGY.

URK!

ST

EAM

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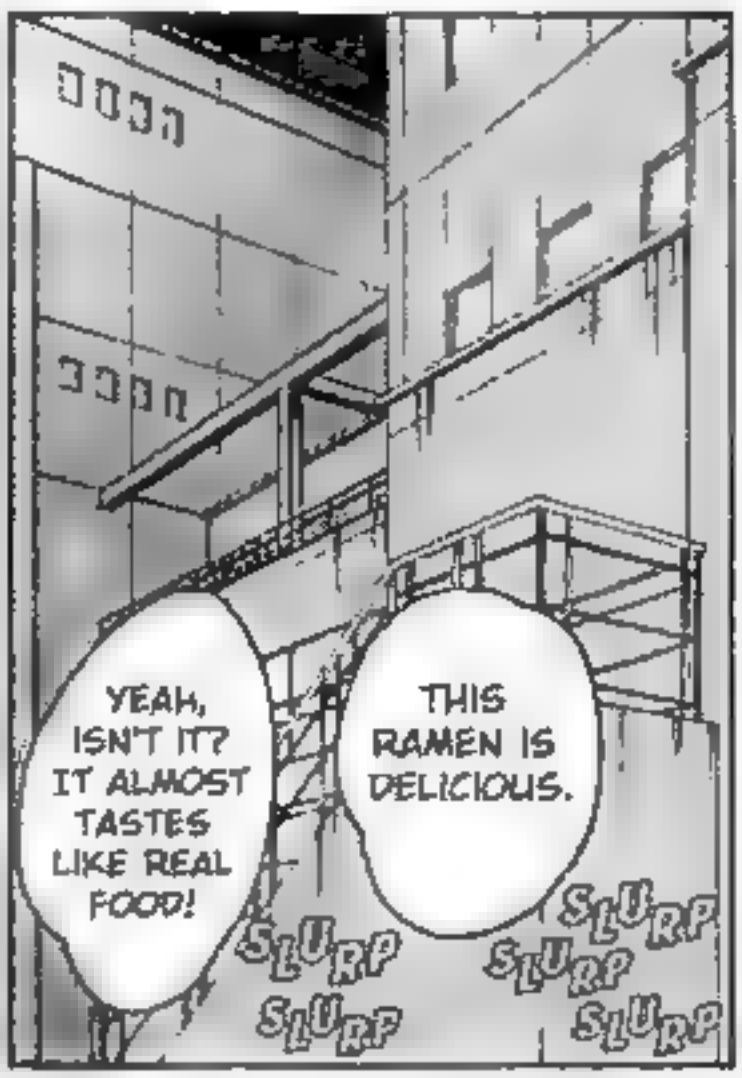

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REMEMBER WHEN I ASKED YOU WHY YOU DISAPPEARED EVERY WEEKEND?

YOU EVADED MY QUESTION BY MAKING IT SEEM LIKE YOU WERE DATING SOME GIRL.

STEP

THAT'S TRUE.

. YOU WERE VISITING YOUR MOM.

BUT REALLY

DON'T LIE TO ME!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

I THOUGHT YOU HATED YOUR FATHER. AM I RIGHT?

YEAH

IS FUJIMURA YOUR FATHER'S LAST NAME?

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DON'T YOU GET IT?

WHY DO YOU CALL YOURSELF SHIGEKI FUJIMURA NOW?!

I DON'T GET IT!

NO, I DON'T.

REALLY?

THAT'S WHY YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND CAME TO TOKYO IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?

YOU DIDN'T *WANT* YOUR FATHER TO ADOPT YOU! YOU *HATED IT* THAT YOUR PARENTS JUST DID WHATEVER THEY FELT LIKE, AND DIDN'T THINK ABOUT YOU AT ALL!

YET DESPITE *ALL THAT* ...

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I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL.

WH... WHAT ?!

TATSU-BOY

ZOOP

IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT, I'LL TAKE IT

YOUR COLA, I MEAN ♡

adidas

...YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN TO ADMIT IT.

YOU KNOW WHY, BUT...

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AGH!

GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG

GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG

GLU...

KA-

PSST.

ACK!

WHU

WP

JEEZ, IF YOU JUST POURED IT LIKE THAT...

*COUGH!

HACK

HACK

GOUGH-K

CRUNKLE

adidas

HERE.

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SORRY I WASTED YOUR TIME.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF TALKING.

IS THAT IT?

THANKS.

TATSU-BOY.

YOU KNOW, I...

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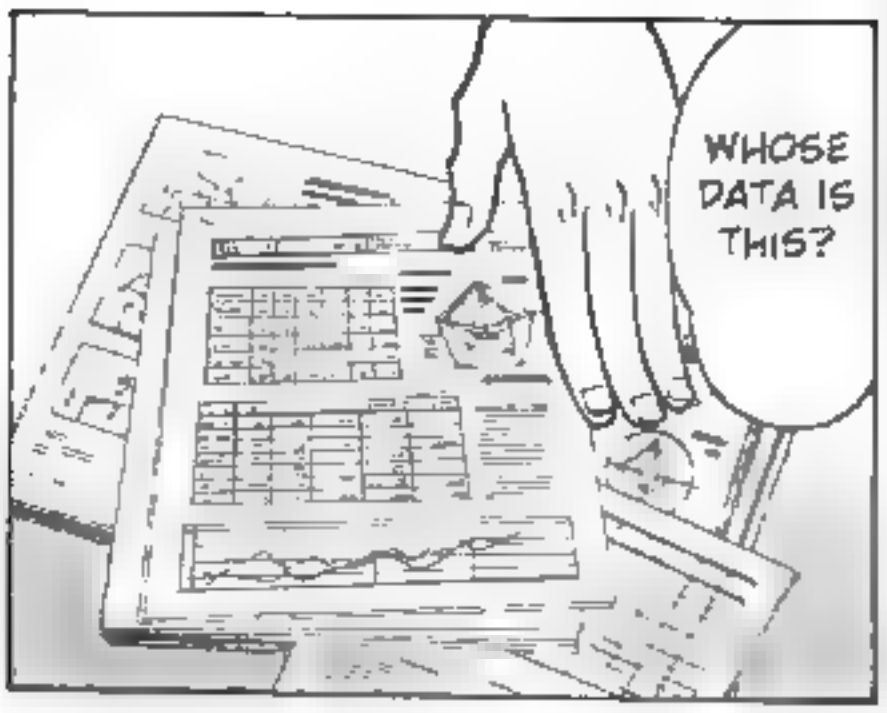

HE'S NOT SELF-CONSCIOUS, AND HE TRANS ENTHUSIASTI-CALLY THAT'S WHY HE'S ABLE TO MOVE UP SO QUICKLY
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE REST OF THIS BOY'S SOCCER CAREER.

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COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED SHŌ'S TRAINING.

I CAN'T TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR VERY MUCH OF IT

MATSU-SHITA.

RIGHT NOW, HIS SKILL HASN'T CAUGHT UP TO HIS SPIRIT, BUT WHEN IT DOES...

IT'S HIS INNATE TALENT.

THE STRONG SPIRIT THAT NEVER GIVES UP.

HAVING A STRONG SPIRIT IS ALSO A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

NOTHING

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

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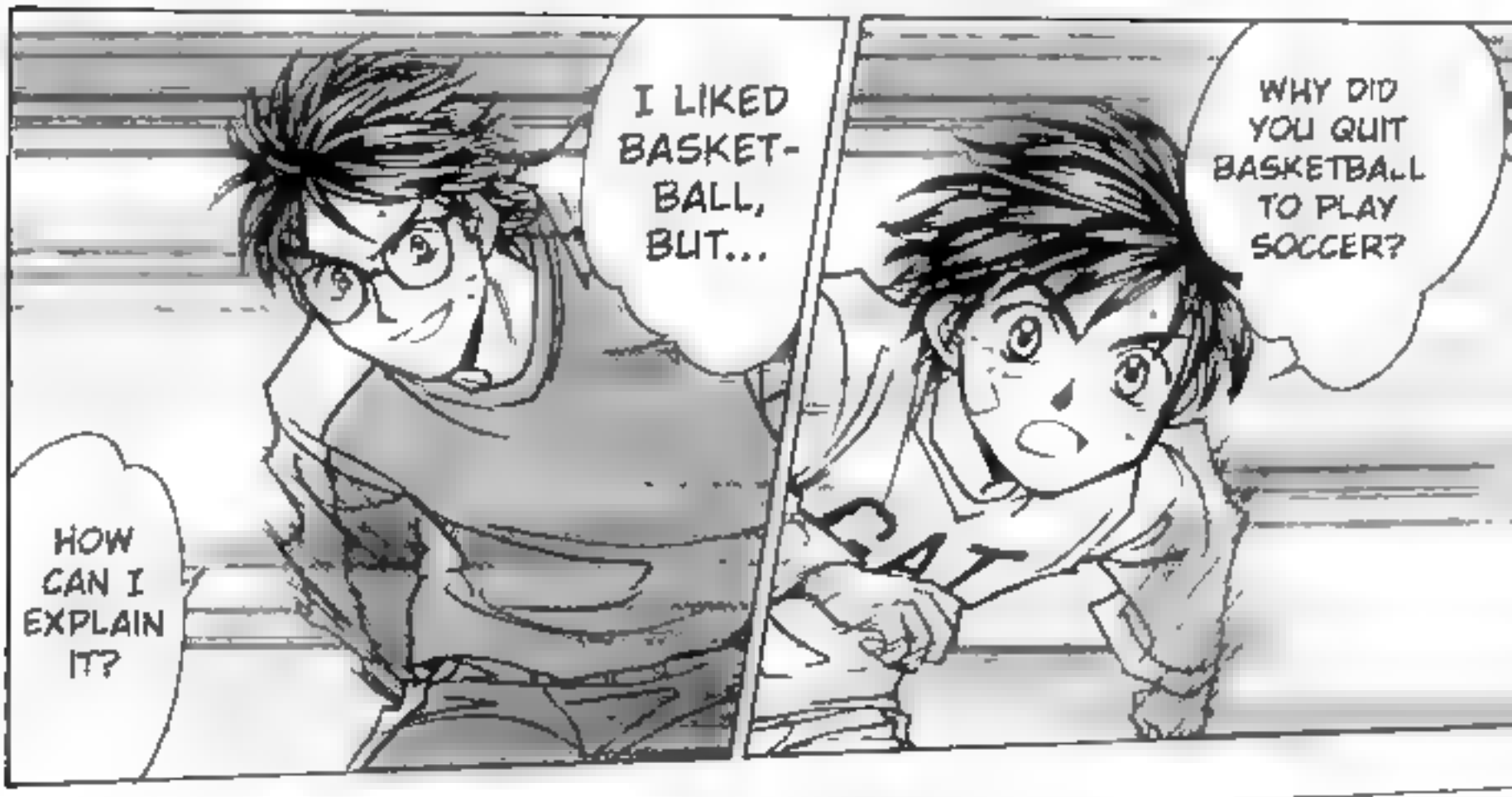

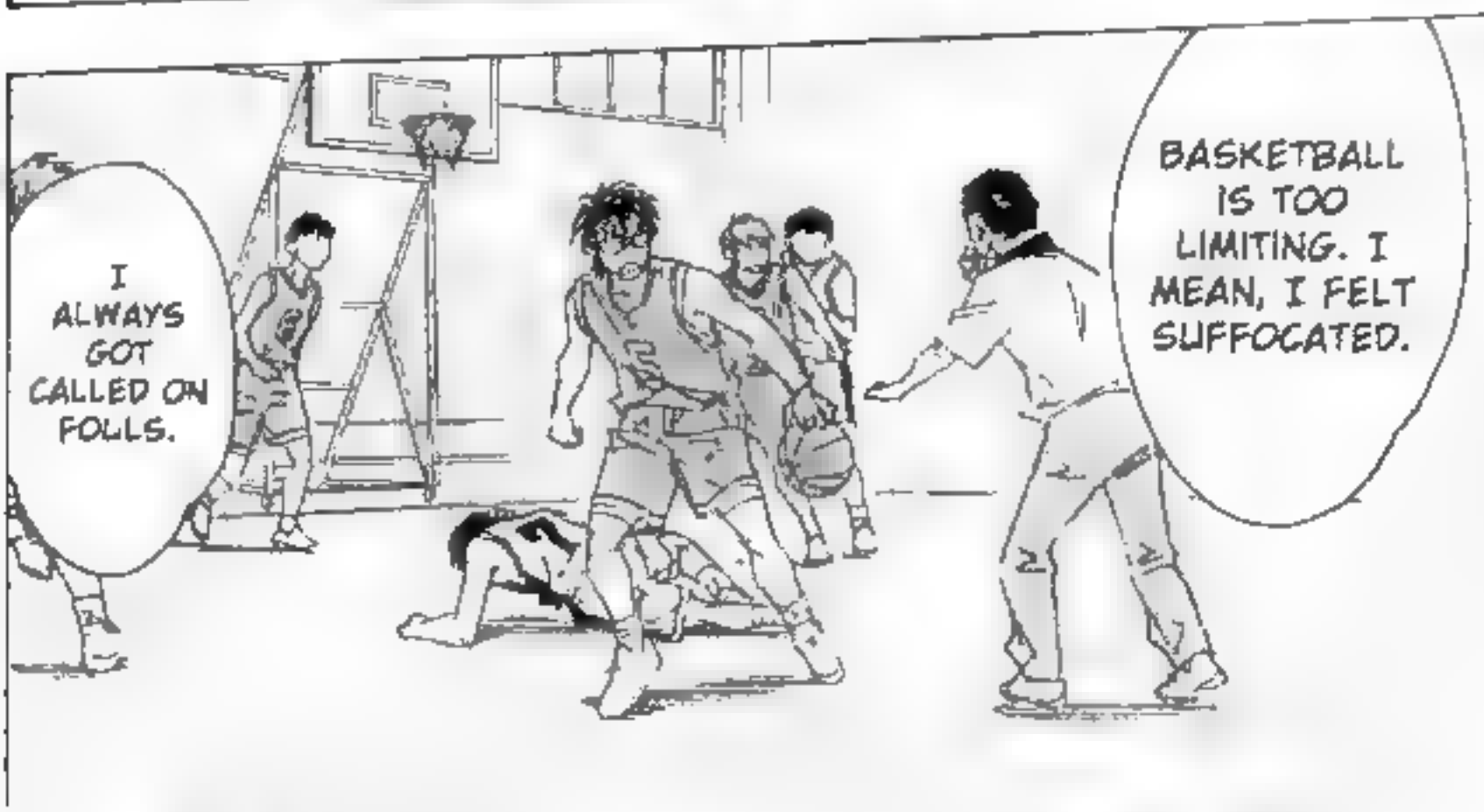

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ONCE I STARTED PLAYING ...

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SOCCER WAS TOTALLY UNCOOL COMPARED TO BASKETBALL, BUT...

THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF THE SOCCER CLUB SAW HOW I WAS DOING AND APPROACHED ME.

I DISCOVERED THAT THE SOCCER FIELD WAS SO BIG AND WIDE OPEN..

...I WAS FREE TO PLAY WITH MY WHOLE HEART.

I GUESS IT FIT MY PERSONALITY PERFECTLY.

IT FELT **SO** GREAT.

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SHOW

GA SHOT

DASH

MY VANISHING FEINT!

HIS TURNS ARE FAST! I CAN'T SHAKE HIM OFF!

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WHOA!

HE'S CHARGING STRAIGHT TOWARD ME?!

HM?

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SHŌ.

I ALMOST HAD HIM.

WHEW!

KYUSHU'S GONNA *KICK BUTT* TOMORROW!

ANY-WAY, I SHOULD PROBABLY TURN IN.

DON'T GET RECK-LESS JUST 'CAUSE I'M SO GOOD.

HUH?

HE TREATED ME TO A BOWL OF RAMEN, AND HE EVEN LET ME PRACTICE WITH HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?* THAT GUY YOU WERE JUST WITH. DON'T YOU KNOW HE'S IN KYUSHU SELECT?!

TA-TSUYA.

...

I HEARD HE USED TO PLAY BASKETBALL, SO HE HAS SOME REALLY FAST TURNS.

DON'T YOU FEEL WEIRD ABOUT IT?

SHŌ ...

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DON'T YOU FEEL WEIRD THAT SHIGEKI JOINED THE KANSAI SELECT...

...WITHOUT EVEN TELLING US?

ABOUT WHAT?

I HAD WONDERED IF SHIGEKI MIGHT QUIT SOCCER FOR GOOD.

I *WAS* SURPRISED AT FIRST..

BUT...

...

AND THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY.

SO, FOR HIM TO MAKE IT TO A NATIONAL EVENT, EVEN IF IT MEANT GOING SO FAR AS JOINING KANSAI--IT MUST MEAN HE'S SERIOUS.

IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT HE'S TRULY COMMITTED TO PLAYING SOCCER.

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TATSU-BOY...

YOU KNOW, I...

HOW ABOUT YOU?

...I'M SCARED ...

...OF SHŌ.

HAVE *YOU* EVER FELT THAT WAY?

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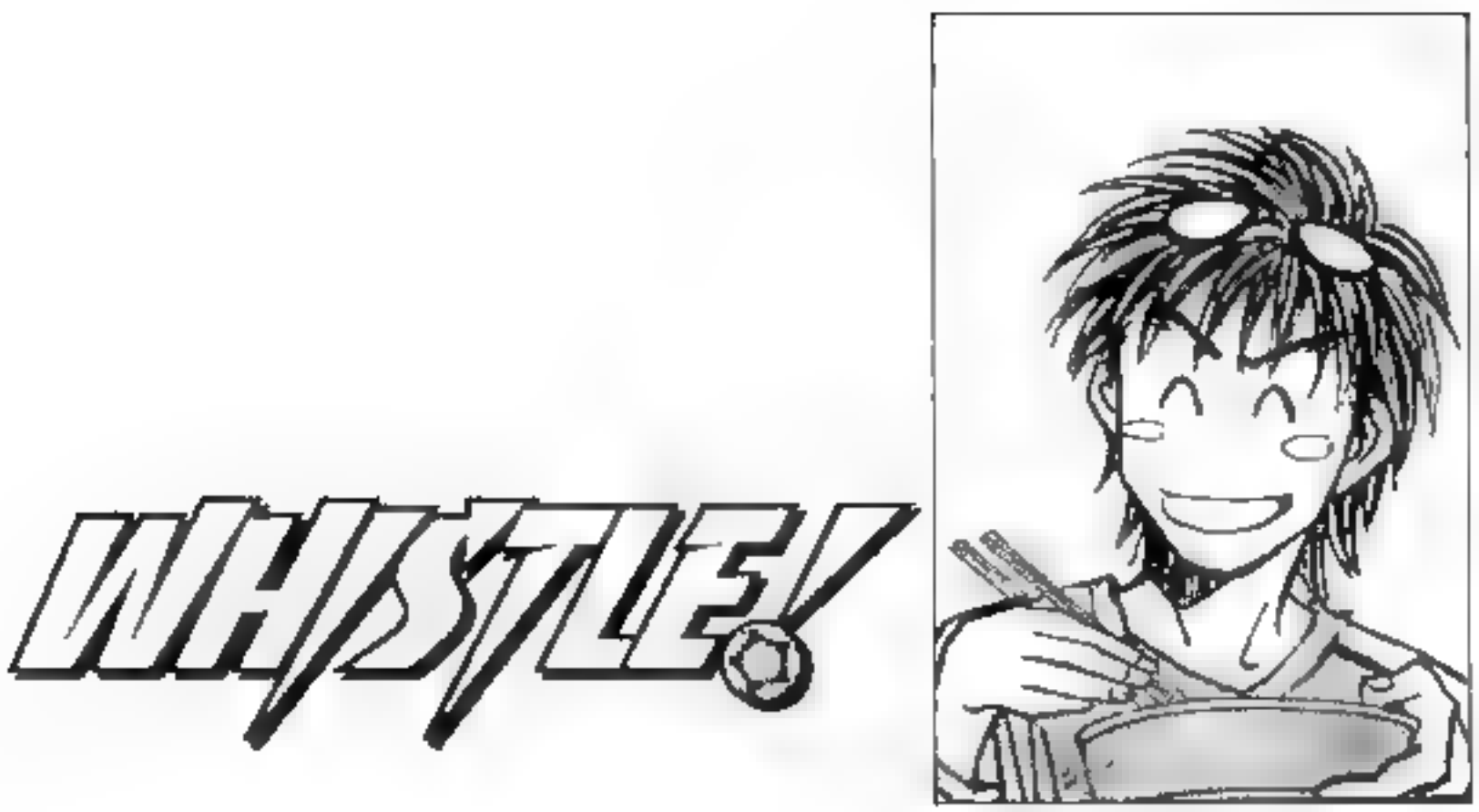

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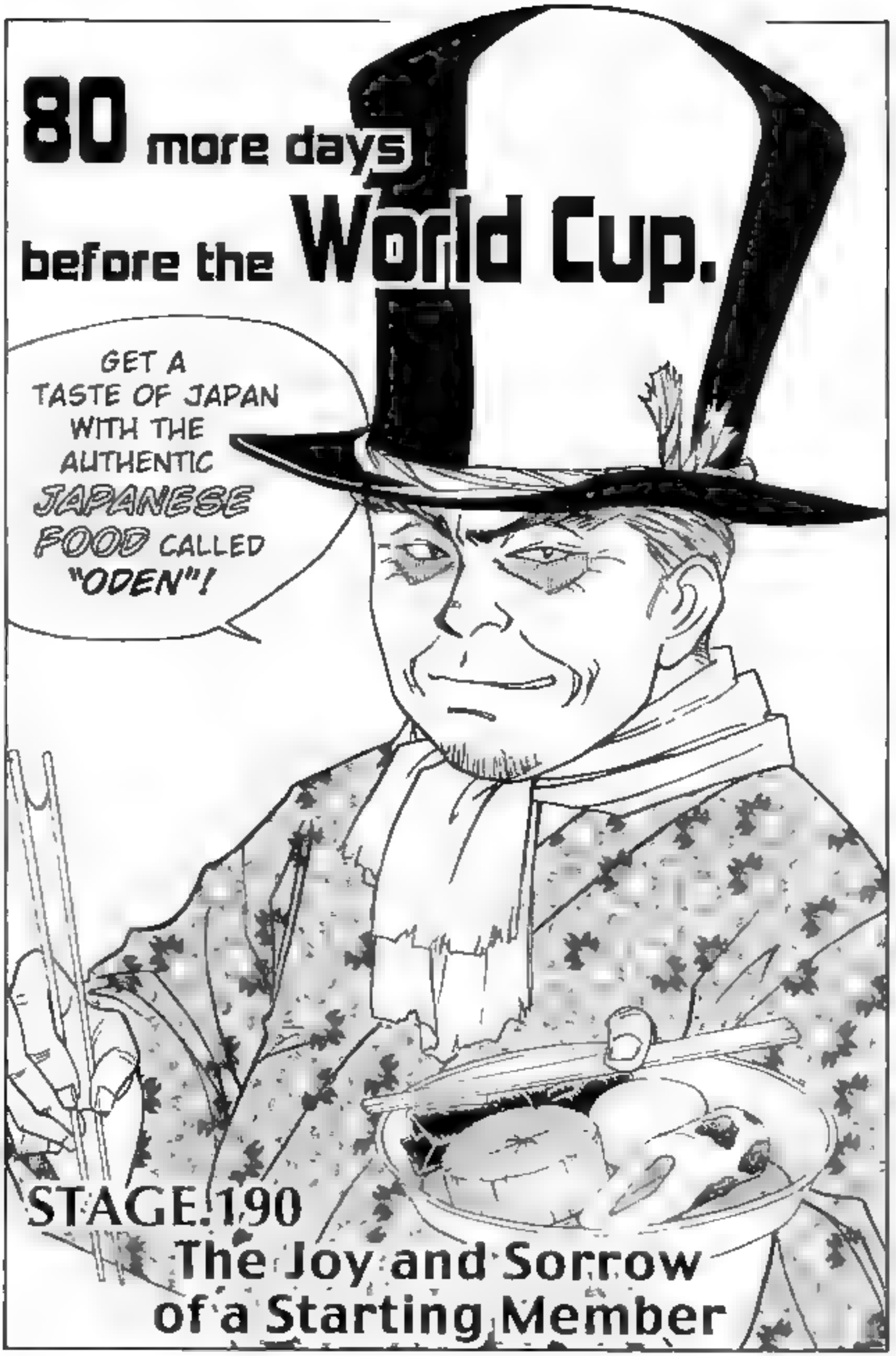
80 more days before the World Cup.



STAGE.190
The Joy and Sorrow of a Starting Member

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(TRY ON MY DREAMS)

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AND FAST!

MY BODY IS SO LIGHT!

NO ONE CAN CATCH UP WITH ME.

I'M THE WIND!

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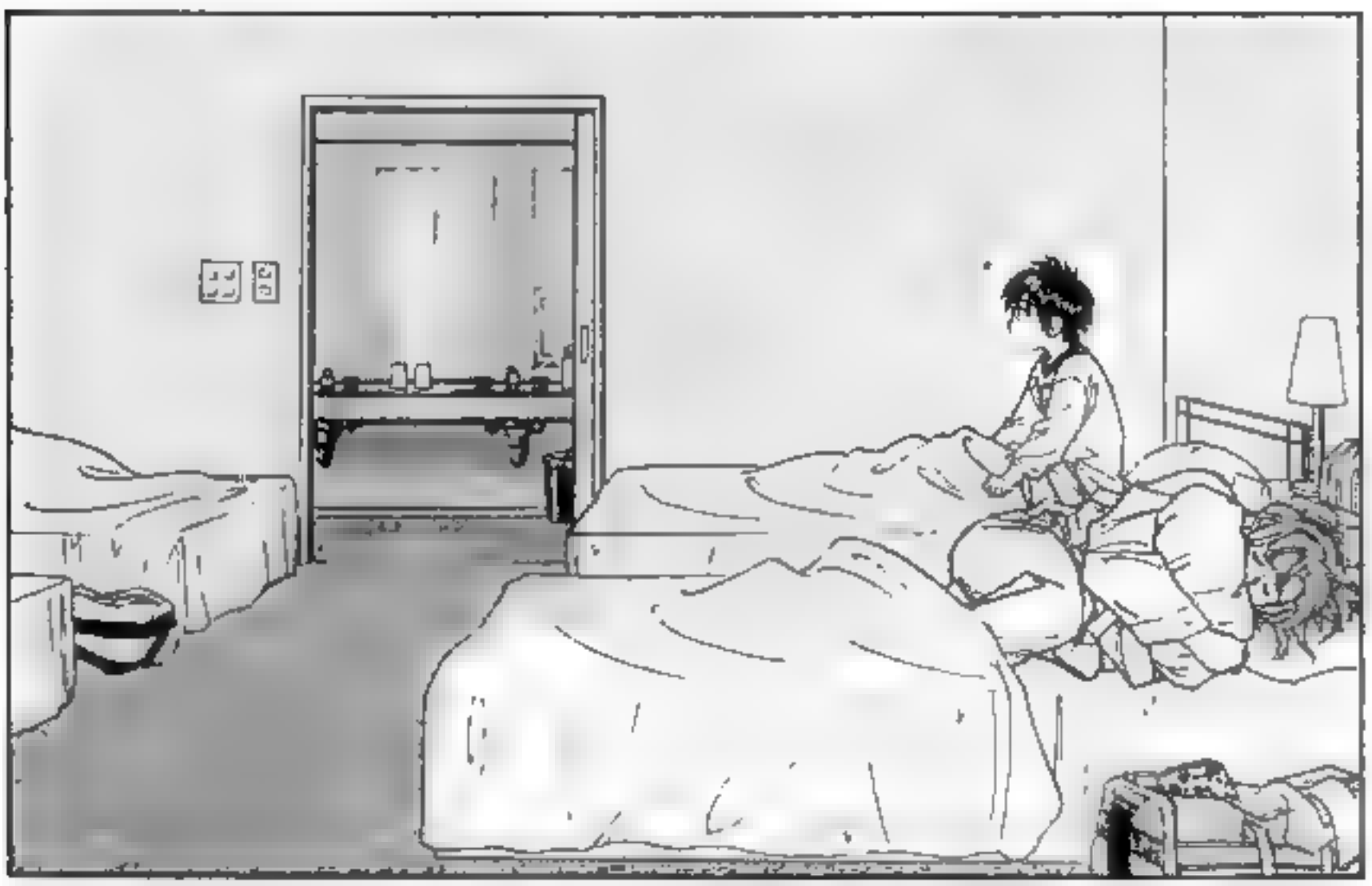

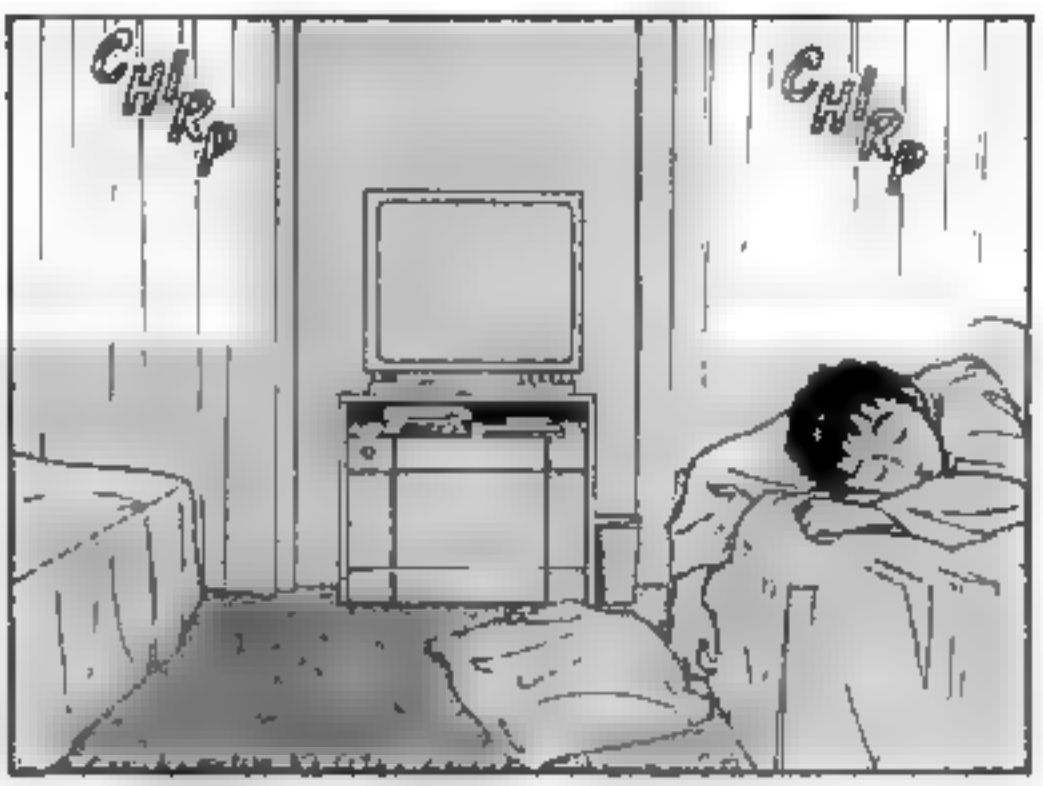

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I CAN'T WAIT TO KICK THE BALL!

WHAT IS THIS?

MY WHOLE BODY IS ENERGIZED.

GOAL-KEEPER ...

I'M GOING TO ANNOUNCE THE STARTING LINEUP FOR THE GAME AGAINST KYUSHU.

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WHA-

A-AT?

...IS DAICHI.

DEFENSE. KEISUKE, KŌSUKE, ROKUSUKE, TSUBASA.

WHAT ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT?

DAICHI HASN'T PLAYED VERY MUCH. HAVING HIM IN MAKES ME NERVOUS.

WILL HE BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS? WE'RE UP AGAINST KYUSHU, THE TEAM WITH THE BEST SHOT AT THE CHAMPION-SHIP.

IF IT WERE THAT EASY WE'D ALL BE GREAT DAICHI!

SOME-HOW I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.

OOOH.

HE'S BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE.

NOT A PROBLEM.

ALL I NEED TO DO IS IMPLEMENT EVERYTH NG I LEARNED DURING TRAINING, RIGHT?

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M.. ME?

KUH?

SHŌ!

CONK

YUP.

SHŌ?

SHŌ...

MID-FIELDERS: SEIGO, TAKI, EISHI, HITOYOSHI. FORWARDS: TAKASHI...

I'M A ***STARTING MEMBER!*** FOR THE FIRST TIME!

OH!

OKAY!

HEY, COACH... ARE YOU WRITING THIS GAME OFF AS A LOSS ALREADY?

I'M HELD BACK?!

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WE ARE FACING AN OPPONENT THAT WE WON'T BEAT, UNLESS WE HAVE A DESPERATE RESOLVE.

AGK

I HAVEN'T IT WRITTEN OFF, BUT...

IT *IS* DISCOURAGING, BUT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DEFY EXPECTATIONS IS TO WIN.

EVERYONE THINKS KYUSHU WILL WIN THIS GAME.

HMM...

I DO.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR TEAM-MATES?

DO YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES?

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...IS YOU, TOKYO SELECT.

THE TEAM THAT WILL WIN...

THE PLAYERS WHO HATE TO LOSE THE MOST ARE GOING TO WIN!

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS, NEVER GIVE UP

...THE SEMIFINAL GAME, KYUSHU SELECT VS. TOKYO SELECT.

WE WILL NOW BEGIN ...

NOW GET OUT THERE.

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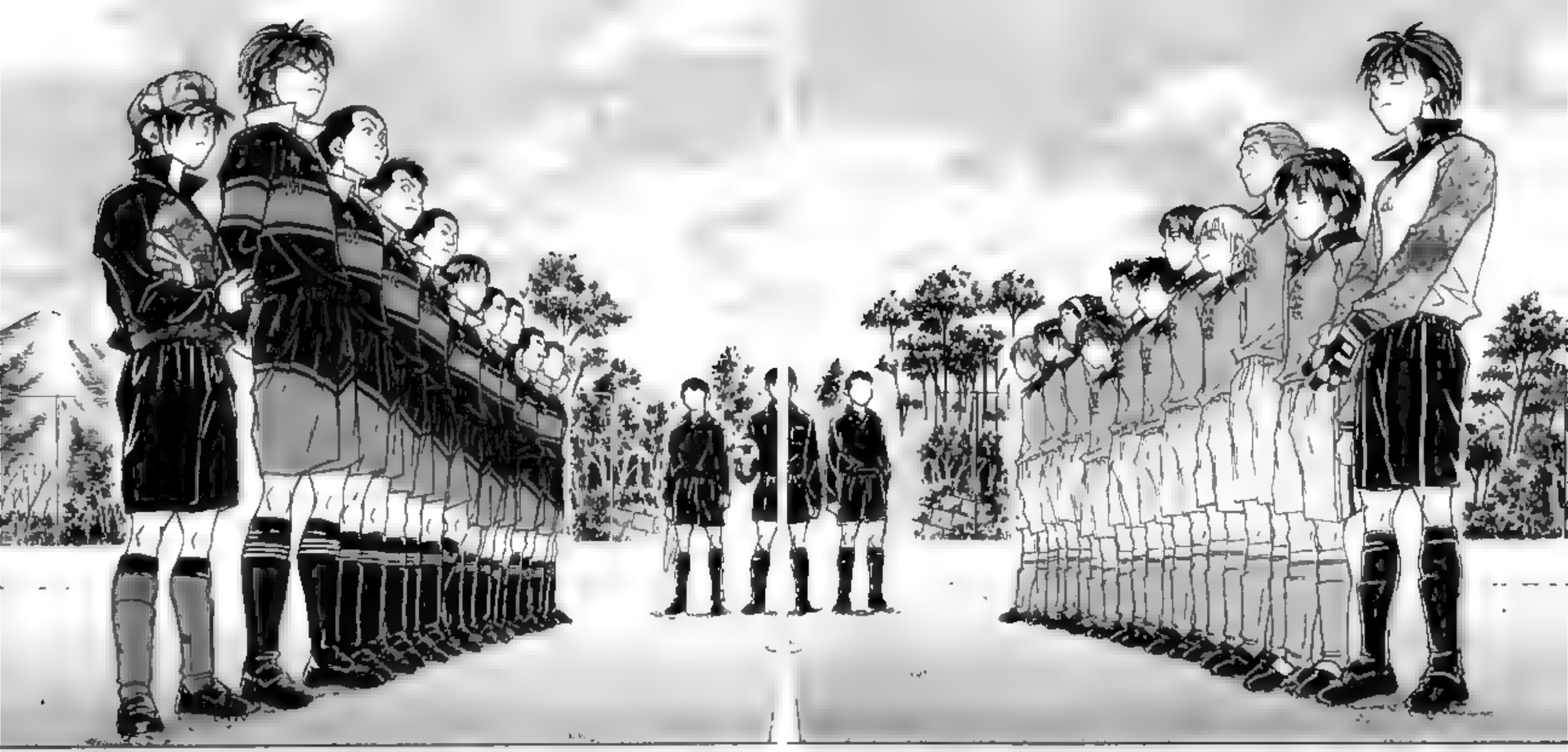

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BUT THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO WHAT KATSURŌ CAN DO.

WE AREN'T UNDER-ESTIMATING YOU.

KA-TSURŌ'S ONE THING, BUT THIS SMALL FRY CAN'T STOP US.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US, TOKYO SELECT!

NO HUMAN BEING CAN BE CONSIDERED PERFECT. I WILL DEFEAT KATSURŌ.

ARE YOU AN IDIOT? KATSURŌ IS AN INCREDIBLE KEEPER. YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM.

?

WHAT?

HUH?

DO YOUR BEST, DAICHI.

HURRY UP, YOU WEIRDO.

KAZU, THE GAME IS STARTING.

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...MY HEARTBEAT EVEN LOUDER THAN USUAL

THUMPA

I CAN HEAR...

THUMPA

THUMPA

19

I'M GOING TO PLAY THIS SOCCER GAME FROM THE START! I'M GOING TO PLAY A LOT!

I'M SO STOKED!

I'M.. HAPPY!

AM I FREAKING OUT BECAUSE OUR OPPONENT IS SO TOUGH?

NO. THAT'S NOT IT

SEMI-FINAL!

TWEEE

TWEEE

KYUSHU SELECT HAS THE KICKOFF!

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KYUSHU IS RUSHING THE FIELD ALL AT ONCE!

THEY'RE FAST!

SHOOK

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BAM!

A SHARP THROUGH-PASS IS SKIMMING THE GROUND!

NOT THROUGH ME, YOU WON'T!

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SHM

WHAT THE...? THE KEEPER JUMPED OUT OF THE PENALTY AREA, AND...

...DIRECTLY COUNTERED THE FORWARD'S KICK!

DAI-CHI!

CATCH IT!

THE BALL FLEW STRAIGHT UP IN THE AIR!

NO!

THE WIND IS BLOWING IT INTO THE GOAL!

DAI-CHI!

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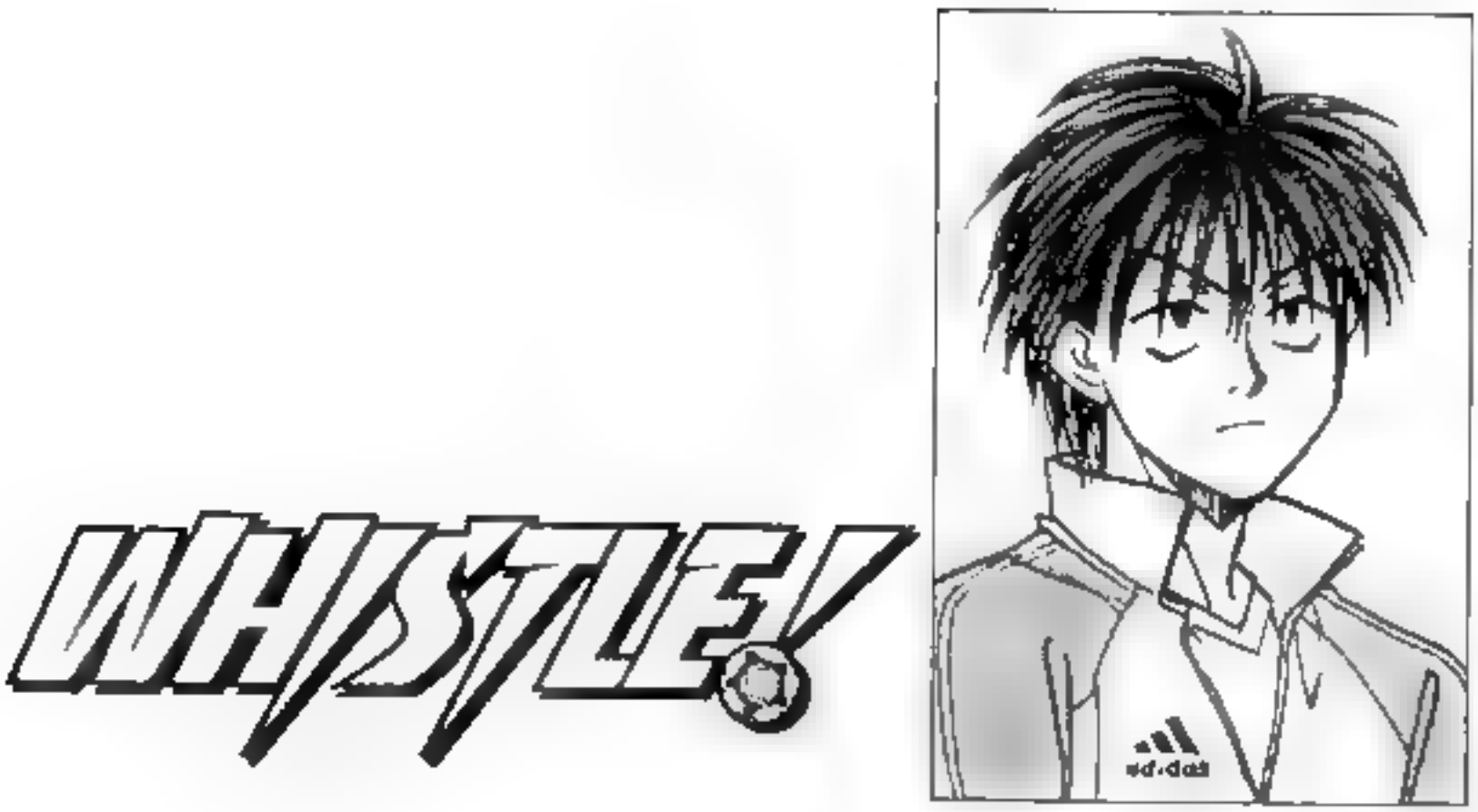

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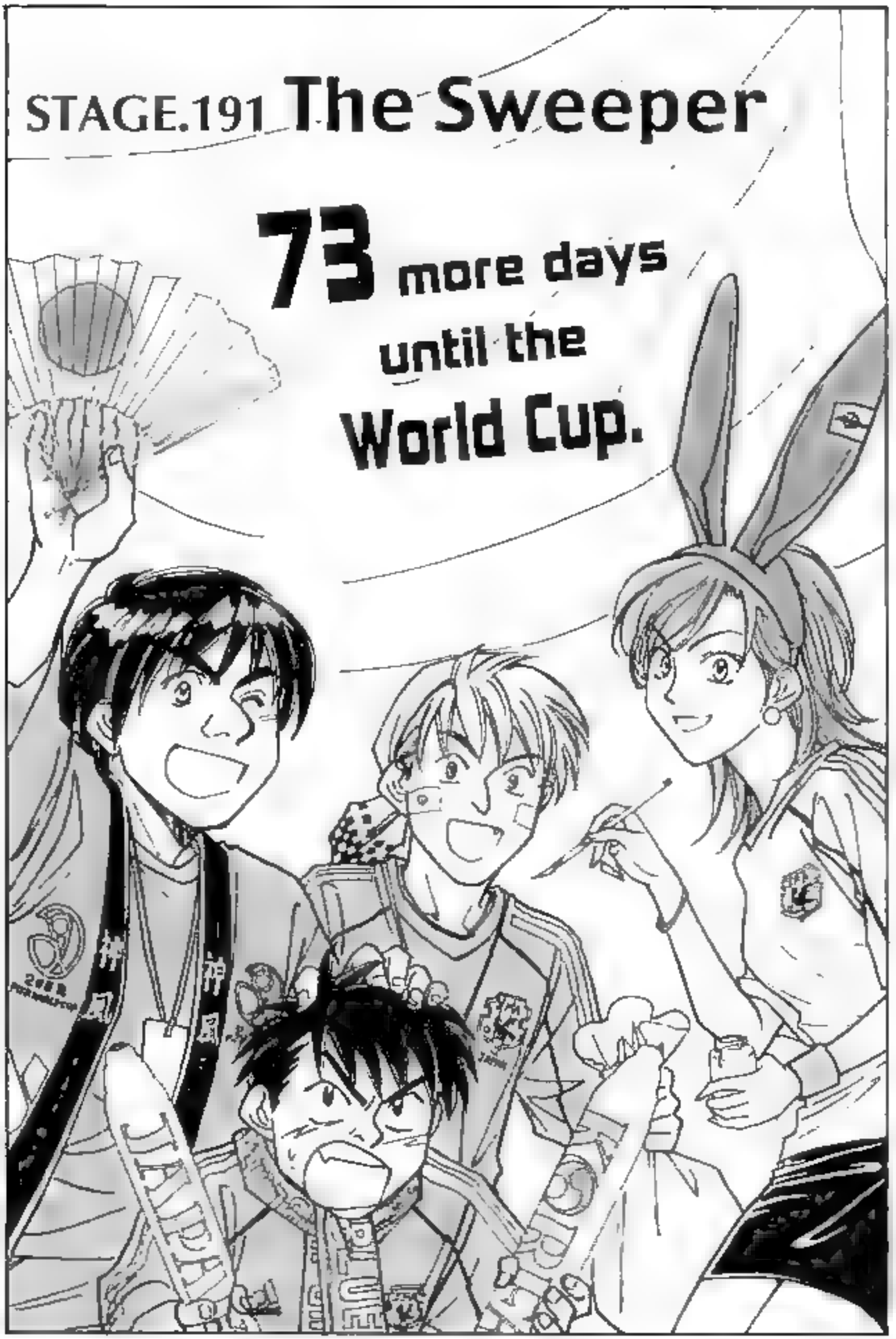
STAGE.191 The Sweeper



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THW

DIRECTLY COUNTERED THE FORWARD'S KICK!

THE GOAL-KEEPER JUMPED OUT OF THE PENALTY AREA, AND...

OMP

THE AIR-BORNE BALL...

IS BLOWN BY THE WIND.

...IT'S HEADING FOR THE GOAL!

DAICHI, DEFLECT IT!

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WHAP

THE KEEPER WAS FASTER!!

HE CAUGHT IT JUST IN TIME!

HE'S ABOUT TO GO INSIDE THE GOAL LINE WITH THE BALL!

BUT ...

. HE HAS TOO MUCH MOMENTUM TO STOP!

DAICHI ...

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SKR ICH

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SAFE!

THE BALL HE CAUGHT IS STILL OUTSIDE THE LINE!

DAICH, NICE SAVE!

GYM-NAST

HMPH.

THAT WAS REALLY CLOSE. WE'D BETTER TIGHTEN UP OUR DEFENSE.

DAICHI, LOB IT!

LET'S DO A SWIFT ATTACK!

AWE-SOME!

A GYMNAST TURNED GOAL-KEEPER, IS HE?

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BOO

M

!

COUNTER-ATTACK!

BIP

THIS TIME, IT'S TOKYO WHO'S PUSHING IT FORWARD!

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WHAT ?!

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NO ONE'S OPEN!

THEY'RE STICKING TO TOKYO ONE-ON-ONE!

THEY SWITCH UP FAST!

IF I CAN'T SEND A PASS...

I ALREADY KNEW YOU GUYS WOULD COME AT US MAN-TO-MAN.

ZW-OOP

SLIDING! FAILED!

SH-SH

IN THE END, THEY ALL END UP GETTING THE BALL STOLEN!

WHEN THEY BUST THAT OUT NO TEAM CAN COMPLETE THEIR OFFENSIVE MOVES.

HERE IT COMES! KYUSHU'S FAVORITE, MAN-TO-MAN DEFENSE!

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NUMBER SIXTEEN OVERLAPS!

HE DODGED 'EM AND MADE A BACK PASS!

HOW ABOUT DRIBBLING!

BA

AA

HITOYO-SHI!

GIMME, GIMME!

HE'S DRIBBLING UP!

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THIS GUY IS DISTRACTED BY THE BALL!

BA

P

DO IT NOW!

HE OUTWITTED THE DEFENDER!

GOOD!

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I GOT IT!

TA-KASHI!

IN FRONT!

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WHO

THAT'S THE SWEEPER!

WHO

CLEARED WITH A HEADER!

THE FORWARD PLOWED IN!

THUD

...OW!

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...WAS KYUSHU'S SWEEPER, YOSHITADA JŌKŌ!

BEHIND THE DEFENSE LINE...

KYU-SHU'S DEFENSE IS GREAT!

HE'S STRONG!

IT FELT LIKE I COLLIDED WITH A ROCK OR SOMETHING WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY MADE OF?

TA-KASHI WAS MUSCLED OUT OF THE WAY?

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DO WE EVEN HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING?

IT'S GOING TO BE REALLY DIFFICULT TO SCORE AGAINST THEM...

THEY'RE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.

WHAT A PAIN.

NOT ONLY DO THEY DEFEND TIGHTLY VIA MAN-TO-MAN...

...THEY'VE GOT A CLEVER SWEEPER IN THE BACK.

BUT...

IT MIGHT BE HARD...

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TAKI!!!

BUT...

POW

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I WON'T LET YOU...

...GET AWAY WITH THAT!

ZOOP

YOU IDIOT!

DON'T TOUCH IT WITH YOUR HANDS! CLEAR IT WITH YOUR HEAD!

WOW!

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BOOM

AND I HEARD HE SWITCHED FROM BASKETBALL TO SOCCER.

I MET SHŌEI FROM THE KYUSHU TEAM.

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?

HA! HA!

THAT WAS CLOSE.

THAT WAS CLOSE.

I SEE OUR OPENING!

B IP

21 TRY ON MY DREAMS (The End)

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I LOVE HOW YOU PLAY SOCCER. ♡
PLEASE
THIS MAY BE AN ABRUPT TRANSITION, BUT DID MIYUKI EVER MANAGE TO CONFESS HER LOVE FOR SHŌ?
(SEE STAGE.165, VOLUME 19)

End of Volume Bonus Manga No.①

Where did all the chocolate go?

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Y... YES.

IT'S A CHOCOLATE COOKIE SHAPED LIKE A SOCCER BALL. DID YOU MAKE TH S YOURSELF, MIYUKI?

WHOA! AWESOME!

WHOOOO...

.. YES.

DID YOU MAKE THIS IN HOME-EC CLASS TODAY?

MAYBE

BEE-EK!

NO WAY!

*OH, SHŌ

MIYUKI, DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME...?

OF COURSE, IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY TODAY.

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

I'M HAPPY WITH THAT FOR NOW

MIYUKI WILL NOT BE DEFEATED!

BUT, SOME-DAY...

MUNCH

IT'S DELICIOUS!

185 **Where did all the chocolate go? (The End)**

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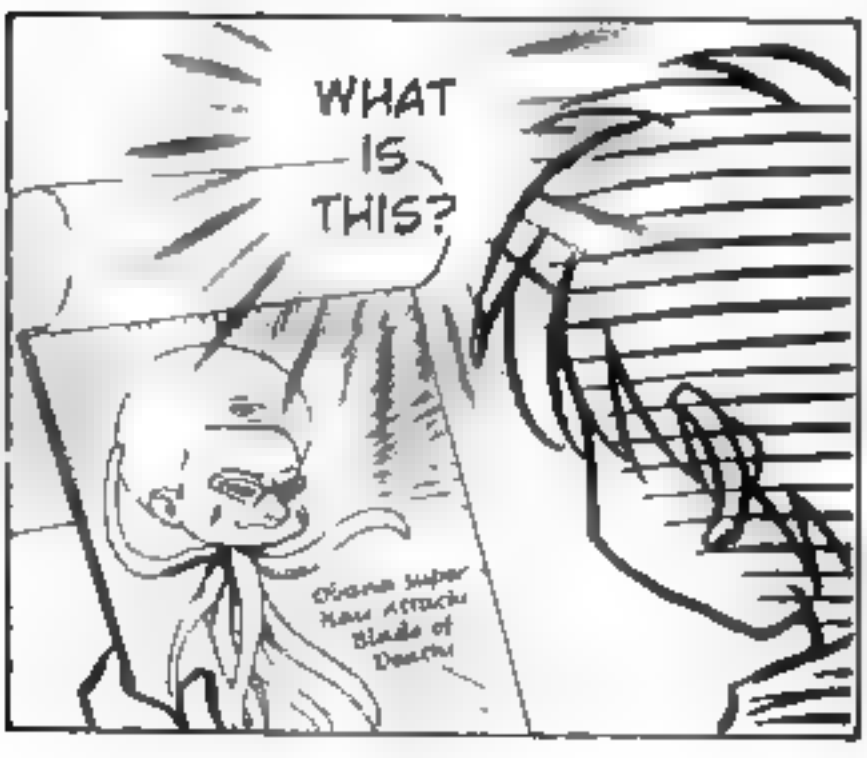
End of Volume Bonus Manga No.②

The Secret Saionji Note

THE MYSTERIOUS CONTENT WILL NOW BE REVEALED!

AFTER THE SELECT TRAINING CAMP, SAIONJI HANDED ME THIS NOTE (SEE STAGE 131, VOLUME 15.) WHAT WAS ACTUALLY WRITTEN IN IT?

Saionji Note
Top Secret
WHEN THE SCHEDULE IS TIGHT BECAUSE OF ANIME, WE OFTEN USE "_____ NOTE" OR "_____ FILE" AS A WORKING TITLE FOR A COMPILATION OF EPISODES



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Running

○ YOU MUST WARM UP AND COOL DOWN BEFORE AND AFTER THE TRAINING

○ WHILE YOUR BODY IS STILL GROWING, IT'S BETTER TO WORK ON YOUR BALANCE AND TECHNIQUE USING A SMALL BALL, INSTEAD OF DOING WEIGHT TRAINING

I KNOW THIS LOOKS WEIRD BUT I'M STRETCHING THE ABDUCTOR.

Stretch

DON'T JUST RUN AIMLESSLY. MENTALLY PICTURE A GAME. SPRINT AT YOUR TOP SPEED AND THEN JOG. ALTERNATING BETWEEN SLOW AND FAST

LIFTING WITH A TENNIS BALL

WHEW!

TRAMPLE TRAMPLE

WHOA!

○ SMALL-STATURE PLAYERS MUST TRAIN THEMSELVES TO SURVIVE A COLLISION.

PRACTICE DODGING TRAIN COMMUTERS DURING RUSH HOUR.

WHAAT?!

IN CONCLUSION, THAT'S THE ORIGIN OF SHŌ'S VANISHING FEINT

DID I ACCIDENTALLY HAND HIM THE LIST OF HIDDEN MENU ITEMS FOR MY SOCCER-COACHING SIMULATION VIDEO GAME? MY BAD!

OH.

187 **The Secret Saionji Note (The End)**

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THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, *WHISTLE* HAS BEEN MADE INTO AN ANIME ♡ I'M SO HAPPY.

I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR POSTCARDS AND LETTERS, FOR YOUR RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRES, FOR BUYING MY COMICS AND TELLING YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THEM AND FOR ALL YOUR LETTERS AND GIFTS. I APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU DO! ♡

IT'S HARD TO DRAW A BIRD FROM THE FRONT, SO SUDDENLY I'M APPEARING IN HUMAN FORM ALONG WITH MY PRINCE, DEVO.

MEOW?

BOW

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT.

DAISUKE

...WAS ME!

HIGUCHI!

IT'S TRUE.

SPEAKING OF LETTERS, THE #1 RECIPIENT OF VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE IN 2002...

THE CROW IS BURIED IN LETTERS.

NOW, LET ME REPLY TO THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION.

Daisuke is followed up by:

- # 2: Shigeki
- # 3: Katsurō
- # 4: Eishi
- # 5: Tsubasa
- # 6: Seiji
- # 7: Daichi
- # 8: Akira Mikami
- # 9: Shō
- # 10: Tatsuya
- # 11 Assistants

HEY, I DIDN'T GET ANY AT ALL THIS YEAR.

MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN MY HOST-BAR BUSINESS

EVEN THOUGH I'M THE HERO.

Also Included:
Yun-gyōng, Yūto, Kazuma, Takumi, Suga, Shōei, Kentarō, Takashi, Mitsuhiro, Taki, Mitsunori, Masaki Shitara, Ryoichi, Tomoyuki, Teppei, Yūsuke, Heima, etc.

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MANY PEOPLE SENT ME CHARACTER ILLUSTRATIONS. AND MOST OF THEM WROTE...

1. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BECOME BETTER AT DRAWING?

2. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST?

SO...

DON'T BITE MY DRAWING HAND!

CHOMP CHOMP

THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS IS...

THESE QUESTIONS I CAN ANSWER CLEARLY, VIVIDLY, DEFINITELY AND LIGHTLY.

DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT DRAWING, SIT DOWN AND DO IT! INSTEAD OF DOODLING AIMLESSLY, BE SERIOUS ABOUT IT AND DO SOME DRAWINGS! JUST

DRAW!

DRAW!

DRAW!

JUST LIKE TRAINING WITH SHŌ!

ABOVE ALL ELSE, JUST PERSEVERE IF YOU DO, THE RESULTS WILL FOLLOW.

24/7 THE CROW BURNS THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS...

BUT STILL SHE DRAWS!

YOUR DREAM WON'T COME TRUE IF YOU JUST DAYDREAM ABOUT IT!

EVEN IF YOUR DREAM DOES COME TRUE AND YOU BECOME A MANGA ARTIST, YOU'LL STILL BE DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DAY.

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Next in Whistle!

ULTRA SOUL

Shôei, the ex-basketball player, may have plenty of talent and speed, but he has very little experience with the game of soccer. So Taki decides to take advantage of it with Shô's vanishing act. Soon it becomes clear that Shôei is the hole in Kyushu's defense Taki was hoping for. Now Tokyo Select must find another way to crack Kyushu's seemingly impregnable wall and get to the goal.

Available May 2009!

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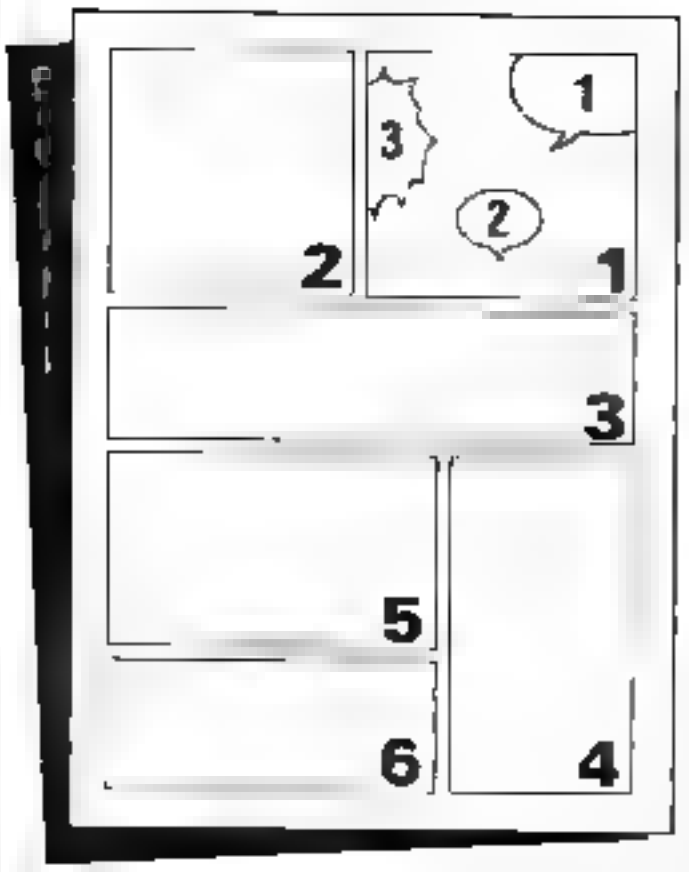
You're Reading in the Wrong Direction!!



Whoops! Guess what? You're starting at the wrong end of the comic!

...It's true! In keeping with the original Japanese format, **Whistle!** is meant to be read from right to left, starting in the upper right corner.

Unlike English, which is read from left to right, Japanese is read from right to left, meaning that action, sound effects and word balloon order are completely reversed .. something which can make readers unfamiliar with Japanese feel pretty backwards themselves. For this reason, manga or Japanese comics published in the U S in English have sometimes been published "flopped" that is, printed in exact reverse order, as though seen from the other side of a mirror.

By flopping pages, U S publishers can avoid confusing readers, but the compromise is not without its downside For one thing, a character in a flopped manga series who once wore in the original Japanese version a T-shirt emblazoned with "M A Y" (as in "the merry month of") now wears one which reads "Y A M"! Additionally, many manga creators in Japan are themselves unhappy with the process, as some feel the mirror imaging of their art skews their original intentions.

We are proud to bring you Daisuke Higuchi's **Whistle!** in the original unflopped format. For now, though, turn to the other side of the book and let the adventure begin...!

--Editor

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WHISTLE! 21

Daisuke Higuchi

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Everybody has a dream, and for Shô Kazamatsuri, that dream is simple: he wants to be the best soccer player he can possibly be. He's the spirited leader of the Sakura Josui Junior High team and everyone looks up to him. In turn, he tries to keep the team together at any cost!

At the Japan Toresen, the national youth team training camp, Shô and Tokyo Select face their first opponent– Kantô Select, headed up by Toshiki, Shô's old friend. Toshiki has matured into a powerful player. Now they face off to see which of them has grown the most, and who can bring their team to victory!

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This book reads from right to left.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

WHISTLE!

volume 21

SJ

WHISTLE! 21

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Whistle v21

Scanner + Cleaner: SecretWings

Sorry for the late update, but finals are finally over!!

Thanks to those who waited patiently and not bomb my inbox with "When is the next release?"

In the future, I might have to release by chapter due to my busy, hectic schedule.

http://ProUnite.livejournal.com

Please drop a feedback!!

We want to know how well we did with this volume this time!!

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